Daily Report

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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Settlers Fire on al-Husayni House; No Casualties

JN2607113095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1103 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four settlers opened fire with their handguns in the direction of Mr. Faysal al-Husayni's house in the al-Suwanah area in Jerusalem a short while ago. No one was hurt. The settlers attacked Arab cars with stones and attacked people's houses in the area.

Officials Comment on Identity of Ramat Gan Bomber

Said Hamas Man From Abu Dhabi

TA2507182095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Palestinian security source said that the Palestinian security services have almost certainly identified the suicide bomber responsible for the terrorist attack in Ramat Gan yesterday.

The Palestinian security source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the bomber was a young member of the Najar family from Khan Yunus. The man, who lives in Abu Dhabi, came to the Gaza Strip two weeks ago on a visit and disappeared four days ago. He is known to be a member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] with ties to the terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash. The Palestinian source expressed the assessment that Hamas was behind the bombing.

The Israeli security services are investigating how the terrorist managed to cross the Green Line.

Yusuf: Bomber Not From Self-Rule Areas

TA2507165095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Police Chief Nasr Yusuf says an initial investigation has revealed that the suicide bomber did not come from Gaza or Jericho. He said the operation was not launched from the self-rule areas.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources say the bomber was a West Bank resident from the group of Yahya 'Ayyash, known as the engineer, who has behind several suicide attacks.

Police Command: Not From PA Areas

JN2607061495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The command of the Palestinian National Security Forces has emphasized that the perpetrator of the Israeli bus explosion in Ramat Gan did not come from the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas. It added that the National Authority will not allow such operations to be launched from the areas under its control.

Hamas Spokesman Notes Arrests

NC2507194895 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 25 (AFP)— Palestinian police arrested 20 members of the Moslem militant group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip Tuesday [25 July] after it claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack near Tel Aviv, the group said.

"The police arrested about 20 activists after the attack, which is part of their campaign against Hamas," 'Imad Faluji, a spokesman for the group, told AFP.

The police confirmed they had arrested Hamas members, but added that the arrests were not linked to the attack on a bus Monday in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan, which killed five Israelis and injured 33 others. Palestinian police regularly detain Hamas activists and other Moslem fundamentalists opposed to peace with Israel but then release them a few hours or days later.

Israeli police released a photo Tuesday of the suicide bomber, but his identify is still unknown.

Israeli state radio identified the man as being a member of the al-Najjar family in Khan Yunus, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, but family members denied it.

The head of Palestinian police, General Nasir Yusuf, said the suicide bomber was from neither the Gaza Strip nor the other Palestinian self-ruled enclave of Jericho.

Hamas Reasons for Ramat Gan Bombing Analyzed

TA2507144395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 95 p A6

[Article by Ori Nir: "Hamas Is Anxious About Progress in the Political Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The timing of the Ramat Gan bombing is related to the progress in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the collective mood in the territories. The recent hiatus of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist attacks and their resumption may be attributed to the political developments and trends in Palestinian and Israeli public opinion more than to the preemptive abilities of the Israeli and Palestinian security services.

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Yesterday's terrorist attack marked the end of a period of over 100 days without suicide attacks by Islamic terrorist organizations and the end to over nine months without suicide attacks by Hamas, if it indeed turns out that it was perpetrated by one of its men.

The three latest suicide attacks were perpetrated by Islamic Jihad members: The bombing on the Kefar Darom Junction in the Gaza Strip on 9 April which resulted in the death of seven soldiers and one civilian, the Bet Lid bombing on 22 January in which 20 soldiers and one civilian were killed, and the attack at the Netzarim Junction in the Gaza Strip on 11 November 1994 in which three Israeli army officers were killed. The last suicide attack for which Hamas was responsible was the bus bombing on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street on 19 October 1994.

As Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday, no agreement existed between the Hamas leadership and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. However, according to reliable information from various sources, earlier this year the Hamas leadership made a tactical decision, mainly in the wake of the Bet Lid bombing perpetrated by Islamic Jihad, to suspend the spectacular terrorist attacks inside Israel for a while.

According to sources familiar with trends in the Hamas leadership, the decision came as a result of the anger felt by the Palestinian population, particularly in the Gaza Strip, over the economic hardships brought on by the terrorist attacks. Each time there is a terrorist attack Israel suspends the political negotiations and imposes a total closure on the territories (as it did yesterday). This causes a lot of economic suffering to the people and deprives them of the hope that political independence is near. The Hamas leaders did not want to be depicted as the guilty party.

They learned over the past year that spectacular attacks are not just a tool to muster public support and sympathy, but a double-edged sword which might also have an adverse effect on public opinion. The suicide attacks created a dilemma because of Hamas' sensitivity to the issue.

This sensitivity stems from the fact that Hamas (contrary to Islamic Jihad, which regards itself as an avant-garde rather than a mass movement) sees itself as an alternative to PLO rule. Hamas wants to succeed the PLO in the future, and not just to sabotage the current Palestinian rule.

Hamas leaders depicted their decision to suspend suicide attacks as an opportunity for the PA to prove that through negotiations with Israel it will be able to provide the people with a satisfactory solution. They thought that 'Arafat would once again fall prey to Israel's manipulation and procrastination, which would expose his weakness, and then support would grow for their active policy.

Three things happened in the meantime: First, the negotiations with Israel advanced slowly and Israel failed to abide by the target dates it promised. This led to a climate of skepticism and apathy among the Palestinian public and to a drop in support for 'Arafat and his Fatah movement.

Second, although progress was very slow it was consistent; the interim arrangements in the West Bank which would entrench 'Arafat's rule and his political platform began emerging on the horizon. A third development, no less dangerous in the eyes of Hamas leaders, was the feeling that they were losing influence with the public. Although PA security officials dared take stringent oppressive measures against Hamas activists in Gaza, they encountered very little public outrage.

There was no public outrage even when they took such humiliating and crass measures as shaving the beards of several Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip. PA officials stopped the dialogue with Hamas leaders during recent months, and according to various reports, dismissed the proposal to hold conciliatory talks in Sudan.

Hamas activists felt the need to react to two developments: the threatening proximity of an arrangement that would expand the reality of the Oslo agreement, which is so menacing to them to the West Bank, and the feeling that they had been pushed to the edges of the Palestinian political map.

Hamas leaders believed that the critical attitude toward the PA in the territories would give them credit to resume the violent activities. "They are trying to show that they exist; to say: We are here, and we should be taken into consideration," says Dr. Khalil al-Shaqaqi, a Palestinian public opinion expert.

The Ramat Gan bombing, if Hamas is indeed responsible for it, reflects the organization's anguish, its desire to do something, however desperate, to stop the process.

In its November 1994 edition, right after the Dizengoff bombing, FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH (the Hamas organ in the diaspora) did not boast about the "achievement," but instead carried on its front page a bleak editorial which ended with the words "we are not very optimistic."

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Kanafani Interviewed on Bombing, Peace Process

JN2507160295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Arif Salim on 25 July; place not given; from the "Today's Events" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Salim] Mr. Marwan, in fact we would like to know the position of the National Authority on the Ramat Gan operation and its impact on the overall peace process?

[Kanafani] The authority's position was made clear by President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday when he condemned the operation and said that it would not serve the cause of peace, the cause of stability, or the cause of the Palestinian people. In other words, matters depend on their results, and such actions will negatively affect efforts to epitomize the aspirations of the Palestinian people and will not offer anything positive to them. The Palestinian leadership, which represents the Palestinian people, has entered into a contract in order to achieve peace, a goal that it is still pursuing. Work is difficult and may not produce any results. But I believe that taking part in the peace process or not is up to the leadership because the people entrusted it with that task a long time ago.

[Salim] It has been observed that every time we get close to an agreement with the Israeli side to apply the stages of the peace process or the Declaration of Principles, such operations are carried out to create negative impacts. Do you not believe that the Israeli rightists and the perpetrators of such operations have a joint goal?

[Kanafani] Your observation is right. Officials, as well as the Palestinian people in general, expect that such operations will take place each time the Palestinians are about to achieve something. The question of liberation is a long one and it needs serious work and every effort. We also have to promote our gains so that we can establish the state about which we are talking and which our people are eager to attain. These operations are blocking progress in the peace process, as well as progress of the Palestinian people toward establishing their state. The current course of negotiations indisputably annoys the Palestinian people, and the results these negotiations have produced are not the ones the Palestinian people want. The Palestinian people have not made this qualitative accomplishment, represented by world recognition of the Palestinian people and their geographical and historical position and their right to live on this land, in order to be kept behind walls or prevented from movement. This is out of question.

[Salim] These operations not only affect the political side, but also the economic side?

[Kanafani] Such operations in the final analysis will not serve the Palestinian people. Let us clarify a certain point. The Palestinians were baptized with blood a long time ago, and they have offered many martyrs and much blood in order to accomplish what they have accomplished. Therefore, we should now do something useful to attain the state we want.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, what form will the peace course take following the Ramat Gan operation?

[Kanafani] I believe and I hope that this operation, regardless of its ugliness, will not affect the peace process. Let me say that the peace process, as we see it now, does not satisfy the leadership or the Palestinian people because it is very slow. It has become a source of agony, and it requires us to pause and restudy the whole peace process, particularly if it does not produce any concrete results within a very short time. The peace process the Palestinian people want is an integrated one whose letter and spirit are clearly defined by the agreement, a process that should lead to the expansion of the Palestinian National Authority to all Palestinian land, including jurisdiction, movement, security, and all other things. These obstacles are preventing this, foremost of which is the intransigent position of Israel, which believes that we are not partners in the peace process and that we are still treating each other as enemies observing a cease-fire. This is not the courageous spirit of peace. Someone has said that it is the leadership that takes risks, rather than the officials who do nothing of this kind because they do not lead toward a popular victory. A historic leader takes proper and important steps to serve his people.

[Salim] Mr. Marwan, where and when will the next round of negotiations be held?

[Kanafani] We hope it will be held as soon as possible. Brother Abu-'Ala', [Ahmad Quray'], said yesterday that in view of this operation and the general atmosphere surrounding it, the current venue of negotiations is no longer suitable. I believe that transferring negotiations to another place where the Palestinian and Israeli sides can pursue talks in a quiet atmosphere could be one of the initial results of this operation.

[Salim] Will the venue be in the Middle East or elsewhere?

[Kanafani] We prefer that negotiations be held in our country. We want to be close to the leadership and the

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Palestinian people. However, if security, stability, and peace of mind cannot be provided, then we prefer to hold negotiations in Cairo as before or in a nearby area. However, let us wait and see.

[Salim] I understand from you brother Marwan that your difference with the Israeli side is over principles and strategies and that it is not on tactics and procedures. Is that right?

[Kanafani] The difference appears to deal with details. However, I believe that the difference has to do with the negotiator's frame of mind. Are we partners in achieving peace? Or are we two parties to a battle in which we need to adopt a stand and to cease fire so that we can live in peace without achieving peace? There is a big difference between achieving peace — which is a mighty responsibility — and living in peace under the principle of power and hegemony. I think this issue will affect the strategy of peace in the future.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, do you expect the Israeli side to be very firm over security issues?

[Kanafani] The simple reaction would be the one you just stated. However, the farsighted political reaction would be to look into what causes such operations and violence. Let me repeat that the course of the negotiations is unequivocally disappointing. The Palestinian people and leadership were expecting a lot. The elections should have been held in July of last year. They have been delayed for more than a year. All of this is frustrating and creates an atmosphere that does not serve the peace process. Despite this, the Palestinian people — who waited many years, offered many sacrifices, and were tortured throughout the course of this revolution in a way that no other people have witnessed before — are patient and able to continue with the difficult negotiating process until they achieve their legitimate national rights.

[Salim] I believe our people now understand the long breath policy which the leadership is going through in this confrontation with the Israeli side?

[Kanafani] Of course.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, many provocations by settlers against our Palestinian citizens have been noticed. This is in addition to settlement activities on the level of expanding settlements and so forth. Do you not think that in view of this, there should be a Palestinian response to this challenge by activating committees for the defense of the land and for confronting settlement building?

[Kanafani] I totally agree with you that this issue should move on to the popular level — the level of direct interests in the conflict with the Israelis over the issue of settlements and settlers.

The history of mankind has been the history of man's struggle over the land. Hence, this struggle over the land was not and cannot always be a heated struggle based on wars. However, in many instances, it was based on political confrontation and on confrontation through the people, through the committee for the defense of the land, and through demonstrations. Let us cite the incident in al-Khidr as an example. In this incident, small groups of Palestinians, which had a direct interest in preserving their land, managed to stand against the Israeli bulldozers and tractors and proved, at the time, their ability to stand against such acts. Moreover, joint action between the government and the people will in the end lead to preserving our lands.

[Salim] This is for sure. At the end of this interview Mr. Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, I thank you very much. May God grant you health.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

Quray' Comments on Resumption of Talks

NC2507195195 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza, Gaza Strip, July 25 (AFP)— Israel and the PLO are to resume no later than Thursday [27 July] talks on extending self-rule in the West Bank which were suspended in the wake of the Tel Aviv bus attack, the chief Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday.

"The discussions should start no later than the day after tommorrow (Thursday), but we have not fixed the date and place," Ahmad Quray' told AFP.

Israel suspended the talks after a suicide bomb attack Monday against a bus in a Tel Aviv suburb killed five Israelis and injured 33 others. But Israeli officials said privately that they did not expect negotiations to start up again before Sunday or Monday.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said earlier the talks would resume in Europe on Wednesday, but the Palestinians denied this. [passage omitted]

Views Progress of Talks

MM2507141795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 95 p 3

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', chief negotiator, by Salih Qallab in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qallab] The recent round of negotiations between you and the Israelis has been

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described as hard, difficult, and exhausting. Is this round of negotiations the first serious round of negotiations held for the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo Accords?

[Quray'] I must point out firstly that the agreement we are negotiating at present should have been concluded three months after the Gaza and Jericho agreement which was concluded in Cairo last year, which means that this agreement should have come into operation as of August 1994.

But it transpired very regrettably that the other side did not prepare itself for such a step, or rather more correctly, it did not want to implement the agreement, as evident from the fact that throughout the past year Israel constantly put forward plans totally at odds with the spirit of the Oslo accord. These include the withdrawal of the Israeli Army for three days during which elections would be held and then its return to its previous positions, the holding of elections in the presence of international observers without the redeployment of Israeli forces, and the famous offer made by Yitzhaq Rabin (Israel's prime minister) which provides for giving up the West Bank [by the Palestinians] in return for the establishment of a Palestinian state in Gaza.

This has caused us great concern over the future of the West Bank. This concern was further stepped up in light of the Israeli statements about placing the West Bank under a tripartite Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli administration. This concern had been previously intensified in light of the stormy meeting held between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli Prime Minister toward the end of last year at the Eretz barrier.

However, a meeting was held afterwards between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during which it was agreed to hold continuous negotiations away from the media. So we embarked on these negotiations initially in the presence and with the participation of the Americans. The Palestinian delegation consisted of myself and brothers Hasan 'Asfur, Hasan Abu Libdah, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya while the Israeli delegation consisted of Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry Uri Savir, 'Uzi Dayan, Sanfar, and Shahur [last two names as transliterated].

[Qallab] What role did the Americans play? Were they mere spectators or did they join in to express specific views?

[Quray'] The Americans, who consisted of Dennis Ross, the American coordinator in the peace process, and his well-known team, participated in five rounds of negotiations which took place on the premises of the Norwegian Embassy in Tel Aviv. They played an active and effective role, though they did not try to impose any specific point of view on either of the two negotiating teams... they followed the negotiations, listened, and only intervened when they found it necessary to do so.

[Qallab] We note that the negotiations on what is considered to be the second stage of the Oslo accord have been moving with difficulty as though you have been renegotiating what had already been negotiated. Why is that?

[Quray'] This is because this agreement pertains to the West Bank and because the West Bank is a sensitive issue to both the Israelis and the Palestinians and is an extremely important issue, because it is the issue that would bring the Palestinians to the very door of the chamber of the eventual solution: So they could either enter this chamber having achieved on the ground what would equip them to raise in strong terms the issues in the negotiations over the final status, or else enter weighed down by the worries of the final stage and thus that stage would become a heavy burden on them.

[Qallab] As you have already said, the negotiations began in the early days of this year. What have you been doing durning this long time?

[Quray'] I have already said that this agreement is extremely important. So we had to pause for a long time at each point. The definition of populated areas, for example, took a long time in our discussions. What applies to this point also applies to the areas of the deployment of the Israeli Army and its installations. The point we sought to establish was that Israel should not return to the areas from which it withdraws, and we have succeeded in doing so.

[Qallab] You have said you have succeeded in pinpointing the differences. What were the points of difference that you have managed to pinpoint?

[Quray'] The main point of difference was that we look upon the settlements and the Israeli occupation as an exceptional matter which should dissipate. For this reason, we made a point of saying that no other issues should remain for the final stage of negotiations other than the questions of Jerusalem, settlements, and the other known issues such as that of the refugees and future relations, whereas they have been trying to consider the Palestinian populated areas also.

[Qallab] Have you achieved anything specific in this regard?

[Quray'] As you know, an understanding was reached between Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the Israeli prime minister that the borders of any settlement shall not exceed 50 meters beyond the remotest house in

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it, which would mean the separation of settlements so that they would not intertwine with lands of the West Bank, and that the question of the settlements would be negotiated in the final stage, which will begin in the spring of next year.

These matters are still the subject of exhausting negotiations because there is a divergence of views concerning them. While we hope that we will complete the discussion of this matter shortly, we wish to affirm that we cannot make any concessions at all in regard to this matter.

[Qallab] It seems differences are still continuing over the basic issues. We have heard that it was agreed during the tripartite meeting in Alexandria that the number of members of the autonomous council should be 82. Is that true?

[Quray'] The fact is that brother Abu 'Ammar put forward this figure during the meeting with President Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and that the latter did not make any objection to this. He said he will have to discuss this matter with his government.

However, on our part, we cannot take this to mean agreement until it has been formulated and drawn up in the form of a written plan. What applies to the number of members of the autonomous council applies also to how the people of East Jerusalem will participate in the elections.

[Qallab] Why has the question of water suddenly surfaced as a point of difference when we have not heard of it before?

[Quray'] Who said that? We consider the question of water as one of the extremely sensitive and dangerous issues, for it affects the life of the Palestinians and the future of their lands. For this reason, we cannot move on from this issue until it is made clear and until we obtain a convincing measure of our rights.

[Qallab] Have you achieved anything in this regard?

[Quray'] This matter was the subject of difficult negotiations. The Israelis put forward many ideas. But we have not achieved anything specific yet. It is intended to form a special committee to tackle the question of water and find satisfactory compromises.

[Qallab] If you fail to reach agreement on the question of water in the transitional stage, will you leave this matter to the final stage?

[Quray'] No, by no means. We will not accept the deferment of any of the transitional-stage questions to the final stage, because we do not want to overburden the final stage with issues other than those pertaining to it, most important of these being Jerusalem, the settlements, and the refugees.

We view this issue, namely the water issue, with utmost care and seriousness and they, too, view it with utmost care and seriousness. We, on our part, believe that there can be no future for the Palestinian entity without securing water either from our subterranean sources or from any other source.

[Qallab] From what you have said, we understand that the Zikhron Ya'aqov negotiations were held only to pinpoint the differences. Is that so?

[Quray'] The fact is that the points of differences were clear from the start. So what we have actually done was try to move into the stage of drafting so that we could write down the points of agreement and also write down the points around which the views are close or far. We have succeeded in regard to some issues but failed in regard to others.

[Qallab] Does this mean that the agreement will not be signed next Tuesday [25 July]?

[Quray'] I do not know. Definitely there is a none too small gap between us and the reaching of an agreement.

[Qallab] Does this mean we need to wait for some months before the agreement can be signed?

[Quray'] This is possible. But if the Israeli side were to take logical and reasonable stands during the negotiations, we would probably then be able to sign the agreement shortly. But in any case that will not be next Tuesday.

[Qallab] The negotiations were supposed to move to Cairo at the wish of President Mubarak. Why have you changed your position?

[Quray'] We have not changed our position. In fact it was we who asked in the presence of President Mubarak that the negotiations be moved to Cairo, but the Israelis said they would like to come to Egypt after the negotiations had made some steps forward... they did not give a categorical reply at the Alexandria meeting and later they came back to ask for the move to Cairo to be delayed.

[Qallab] We have heard that Ezer Weizman has promised President Mubarak to release the Palestinian women detainees within a few days. Has there been any progress in this regard?

[Quray'] In fact, President Mubarak deserves all gratitude and thanks from every Palestinian family in regard to this matter which causes worry and concern to every Palestinian family. The sister detainees have been

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in prison for many long years, a matter that has pained the conscience of the Palestinian people.

President Mubarak, may God grant him all good, placed this matter at the head of his list of priorities during the Alexandria meeting and contacted the Israeli state for this purpose. I believe this issue has now been settled and our sister detainees will very soon be released.

[Qallab] Do you believe there is a possibility that the negotiations could collapse, as some people say?

[Quray'] Everything is possible. As there is a possibility for success there is a possibility for failure as well. But we must contain the possibility of failure and enhance the possibility of success, because the alternative will be bitter for them and will be still more bitter for us... the situation is very difficult, but we have no choice other than the achievement of peace but without relinquishing any of our principal issues.

[Qallab] What about the time factor?

[Quray'] We are now living in the land of our homeland and are developing our experience. So we will not let the time factor become a sword hanging over our heads... we want the Israelis to withdraw from our land as fast as possible but without making this desire an element for blackmail at the expense of what is guaranteed.

[Qallab] Are you not afraid that the Likud might come back to power in the coming Israeli elections, and then everything will come to a standstill?

[Quray'] The peace process began in the days of the Likud and we have had negotiations with the former government of Yitzhaq Shamir. This means that if they return to power, we will negotiate with them.

[Qallab] But the Likud has very strict positions and this may lead to the collapse of the accord. What do you say to that?

[Quray'] There is no doubt that matters will become extremely difficult. But I believe the peace process will continue because it does not concern the Palestinians and the Israelis alone but the whole world and particularly the influential powers that have strategic interests in the region.

Negotiations Delegate 'Asfur Views Stalled Talks

JN2607121295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, member of the negotiating delegation, by Yasir 'Atilah; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation: While negotiations are being held on the Israeli side as a prelude to resuming the peace talks, what is taking place on the Palestinian level?

['Asfur] There are very intensive Palestinian consultations and working meetings in preparation for the resumption of the current round of negotiations. There are also continuous contacts between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] have taken part in several aspects of these contacts.

Moreover, there are contacts designed to set a date and venue for this round of negotiations in an attempt to promote the peace process. We hope we will not take into account the daily events which obstruct the peace process.

['Atilah] Mr. Hasan: As part of the consultations you have held, did you raise the possibility that the Israeli side will take a firmer position regarding ... [sentence incomplete as heard]

['Asfur, interrupting] We hope so. We believe we should take positions which will achieve the objective we, the two sides, are seeking; namely, to sign a political agreement which will guarantee security and stability for both sides.

['Atilah] Does the Palestinian side accept the decision which keeps the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, Rachel's grave, and the tomb of Joseph under full Israeli control following the redeployment?

['Asfur] This is unacceptable. I believe the Israeli side did not take such positions at the negotiating table.

['Atilah] The last question is: When do you expect the negotiations to resume?

['Asfur] We should exert intensive efforts to resume the negotiations as soon as possible. I believe an answer to this question will be given in the next few hours.

['Atilah] Do you mean after the expected meeting between Abu-'Ala' and Savir?

['Asfur] God willing.

['Atilah] Has a venue been set for their meeting?

['Asfur] The venue still depends on contacts. A meeting between brother Abu-'Ala' and Mr. Uri Savir does not need prior coordination about its venue. There are several venues for their meeting.

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['Atilah] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, thank you very much.

['Asfur] Thank you.

PLO Demands Return of 'Palestinian Golan'

NC2407141495 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, July 24 (AFP) — The PLO is demanding the return of part of the Golan Heights to help in their negotiations with Israel over water-sharing rights, a senior Palestinian official said Monday [24 July].

PLO official Faysal al-Husayni told journalists: "We are not talking only about a small area, but rather about a place that could give us rights in water-sharing" with Israel.

He said the return of the area dubbed the "Palestinian Golan" on the heights, which have been occupied by Israel since 1967, would give them access to the waters of the Jordan River.

Israel and Jordan have already agreed on sharing the waters of the Jordan River in their October 1994 peace treaty, and the Palestinians believe they too could have a claim on the vital resource should they gain part of the Golan.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Saturday said: "The Palestinians have announced that part of the Golan is called Palestinian Golan and there are differences with Syria over this."

The Palestinian delegate in Cairo to the Arab League, Muhammad Subayh, told AFP the "Palestinian Golan" was "a band of about 360 square kilometers (144 square miles) which was part of Palestine during the British Mandate."

The area was given to Syria by an Arab League decision after the 1948 war with Israel and the demarcation of the armistice line in 1949, Subayh said.

Al-Husayni added: "I do not see any reason for a Syrian-Palestinian confrontation over this issue. It is like any other Palestinian zone."

The issue of water sharing has proved a stumbling block in negotiations between the PLO and Israel to seal a deal on extending Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank. Israel has vowed not to make any concessions on water sharing which currently gives the Israelis nearly three times as much water per capita as Palestinians.

Both sides have said they will fail to meet a Tuesday deadline for a deal, and marathon talks were suspended Monday after a suicide bomb attack on a bus in a Tel Aviv suburb killed six people and wounded 33 others.

Crisis Over Water Resources 'Extremely Serious'

TA2407072095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 21 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Vital Links"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new problem has arisen that could prevent a Palestinian-Israeli agreement from being signed by the proposed date of July 25. The crisis over water resources is an extremely serious one and must be resolved if talks are to continue with the aim of reaching a just and comprehensive peace.

There are three disputed sources: one in the Hebron area, the other in the north close to Janin, and the third is located in the Jordan Valley — all three in the occupied West Bank.

By their own admission, Israeli officials know the solution they propose is far from equitable. They are asking for three quarters of the water supplies, leaving the Palestinians, in whose territory the waters originate, only a quarter.

Even if the Palestinians of the West Bank were not suffering from a lack of water for themselves and their fields, how can a Palestinian negotiator agree to sign away the natural rights of his people with a clear conscience?

It is doubtful the Israeli government is unaware of the problem's seriousness and the dead end it could lead to if it continues to insist on drawing upon the subterranean waters of the West Bank to fulfill its needs.

Rabin should be aware that he is not the only one claiming he will not sign any agreement until a solution is found for the water problem. The Palestinians are no less anxious to work out this vital problem. The logical path is to find Israelis with whom we can negotiate, but even here potential partners in dialogue are turning out to be as unreasonable as Rabin.

On the one hand, we hear encouraging notes from Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who appears willing to talk about a compromise. On the other hand, he says that only one party can and should have supervisory powers over the water resources.

How are we to respond? Do the Israelis want peace or not? There is hardly a more aggressive act than attempting to control the water belonging to another and none more brazen than suggesting that the owners of the water be allocated enough water merely to keep them alive, if only barely.

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Have Rabin and Peres no better ideas on how to make peace?

Paper Calls For Move to Final Stage of Talks

TA2507170695 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Jul 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Confusion Before the Only Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Undoubtedly, the Palestinian-Israeli talks have become so diversified that it is not possible to implement the stages, or some of them, without addressing the issues more comprehensively. How can the Israeli army be redeployed without solving the problem of the settlements? How can the water issue be resolved without broaching the subject of sovereignty over land? How can self-rule in the West Bank be expanded if control over roads will remain in the hands of the Israelis? And how can Jerusalemites vote and become candidates in the self-rule elections without addressing the issue of Jerusalem and resolving the question of this city which both sides consider their capital?

We pose these questions not because we are skeptical about the possibility that the Palestinians and the Israelis might be able to achieve agreement, but to show that from the practical aspect it is not easy to implement the Oslo accords. Many issues were left pending so that they would be resolved in the talks. Those talks actually began more than a year ago and despite the seriousness of both sides and the emphasis on their good will to implement the accords, the talks bogged down not because of the failure of this or that side but because the issues cannot be separated and unlocked. Whenever the two sides agree on an issue, other issues crop up.

By this introduction we seek to highlight what we believe is the only way to close these loopholes and bridge the gap between the two sides. There is no alternative to engaging in the final talks and bypassing implementation of the second or third stages. Much precious time has been lost during the past year and we have been unable to reach agreement on any of the thorny issues. We cannot but begin the final negotiations because all the issues in the current talks were presumably left for the final stage.

Since the issues are interwoven and intractable, all of us should reassess what was agreed on in Oslo. This accord constituted the beginning of a new stage of understanding, but its phased implementation is difficult from the practical and pragmatic aspects. In theory the accord appeared easy to implement, but the negotiators hit snags which they failed to take into account when drafting the accord.

Some might consider our proposal to be unreal and one that will take us back to square one. The fact is that we are at square one. We will not be able to make progress in the talks if we do not confront the issues clearly, sincerely, and with honest intentions to reach a solution that satisfies both peoples and which coming generations can protect. They must also be able to preserve what has been agreed on. There is no room for one side to outmaneuver the other. Moreover, there is a limit to the concessions by both sides and no side can exceed that limit before its people. It should be clear what each side can agree to, and it is not possible to engage in deception since everyone is vigilant.

Facing these facts is not easy, but anyone who believes achieving peace is a simple matter is mistaken. So, let us take the unavoidable path.

Yusuf: Settlers Must Choose Between Two Options

TA2107142195 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Jul 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander in chief of Palestinian forces in the Gaza and Jericho regions, has said that Israeli settlers have the option of either vacating the settlements or becoming Palestinian citizens who will receive the same treatment as the rest of the Palestinian people.

He emphasized that the settlers must choose one of the options. In a meeting with foreign journalists at the Adam Hotel in Gaza yesterday, he said that the settlers' departure has been agreed on in the peace agreement. He added: "They can become Palestinians after obtaining Palestinian citizenship, but they must change their mentality."

In this meeting, which was organized by the Foreign Journalists Association, Maj. Gen. Yusuf disclosed that Israeli agents carried out the assassinations of Islamic Jihad activists Hani 'Abid and al-Khawajah and that three agents holding Israeli citizenship who were involved in these acts were recently handed over to Israel. He refused to divulge the number of Israeli agents in Palestinian jails.

He said: "Israel and its agents are still carrying out activities in the self-rule territories despite the fact that the Cairo accord prohibits any side from conducting activities in the other side's area."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf noted that 2,000 Palestinian policemen will arrive from abroad within days and that discussions are being held with the Israelis to bring a further 3,000 policemen to the West Bank.

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Maj. Gen. Yusuf described the National Authority's relations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as stagnant and stressed that there is no agreement with the movement. He said: "On the whole there is no agreement but only simple contacts."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf said that Hamas' inactivity stems from the fact that its leaders realize that its actions are inconsistent with the inclinations of the Palestinian street. He said: "Hamas realizes that support for it has declined. In addition, the security agencies have adopted security measures against it. Another factor is that Hamas is aware that talks are being held over the West Bank and that it will not be so simple for it to bear responsibility for the failure of the talks before the Palestinian street."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf acknowledged the existence of some human rights violations, but he described them as individualistic rather than institutionalized. He said: "We need a lot of time to adjust to the new situation. We were acting as armies but now we are acting as policemen."

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Senior' Syrian, Israeli Envoys Meet in Brussels

TA2507180795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior representatives from Syria and Israel met yesterday in Brussels at a preparatory meeting for the Mediterranean conference. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the Israeli delegation was headed by Eytan Bentzur, the Foreign Ministry deputy director general. The Syrian team was led by the director of the Syrian Foreign Ministry's Economic Department. This is the first time that Syrian representatives have agreed to appear together with Israeli officials outside the framework of the United Nations.

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Algeria

Senior Religious Ministry Official Assassinated

LD2507171995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services have announced in a statement that Imam Mokhtar Kadri, aged 31, a senior official at the Religious Affairs Ministry, was assassinated yesterday at about 0840 by terrorists armed with an automatic pistol. The statement said that the victim was killed near his home in Voltaire Street, in Kouba in Algiers.

The late Imam Kadri, who was born in 1964 in Ziama Mansouria in Jijel Province, was married with three children, the eldest of whom is seven.

On this painful occasion, Religious Affairs Minister Sassi Lamouri and the ministry's senior officials and staff received with great grief and sorrow news of the assassination of the late Mokhtar Kadri, head of Religious Guidance and Koranic Teaching. They offer their most sincere condolences to his father, brothers, and entire family and pray to God to bless his soul and give his family and brothers patience and forbearance.

Dembri on Zeroual's Talks With Mauritanian Leader

LD2507141895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the presidential headquarters, the talks between the Algerian head of state Liamine Zeroual and Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya were resumed this morning for the second day running. They were then extended to include the two countries' delegations.

On the sidelines of the talks, our correspondent Rachid approached Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and asked him about the most important aspects of the Algerian-Mauritanian talks. Dembri said:

[Begin Dembri recording] First of all we must place on record that this official visit by President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya is the first in 10 years. [passage omitted]

The official visit by President Maaouya is an opportunity to evaluate the progress of our work. There are several activities and tangible results. Also, there are difficulties especially with regard to economic cooperation in the oil sphere, maritime fishing, and transport.

There are five mixed companies that are encountering management difficulties — not in the objectives but generally with management. The leaders gave directives to overcome these difficulties. I believe that in the near future, at the level of all sectors we will find the necessary solutions.

Actually, head of state Zeroual and President Maaouya fixed for all the officials in both countries a timetable and the mixed committee will be meeting before the end of this year, before December 1995, to put forward proposals that push forward this cooperation. Naturally there are new fields of cooperation. [passage omitted]

With regard to the political dialogue, this has been an important aspect. The political dialogue embraced all that concerned Algeria and Mauritania, except with regard to bilateral relations, the region, the Arab and international arenas. We agreed on the basis of directives from the leaders to continue the coordination and the expansion of Maghreban action for the benefit of our peoples.

The second subject concerned relations with the European Union, and the third concerned organizing the ring of cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa. In the space of two weeks there will a second meeting of foreign ministers in Algiers — the foreign ministers of sub-Saharan Africa. We will then evaluate what we have done since the first meeting which, you might remember, took place in Algiers in November 1993.

The fourth subject in the political dialogue and coordination in multilateral diplomatic work will be to prepare for the Barcelona conference. As you know, Mauritania is not invited to this conference. As a Maghreban union we agreed to put forward observations to the European Union in Brussels and in each European capital to include Mauritania in the Maghreban delegations at this new international forum. [end recording]

Shaykh Begins Hunger Strike, Possibly Ill

MM2507160595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Hachani Began Hunger Strike in Serkadji Prison"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH has learned from informed judicial sources in Algiers that Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani, who has been in a solitary cell at the Serkadji prison since 11 July, began an open hunger strike the day before yesterday in protest against the fact that his family and lawyer have been prevented from contacting him.

A member of his defense counsel, commenting on his solitary confinement in the Serkadji prison, said: "They do not want him to leak information about the negotiations which took place between the shaykhs and the authorities." He told AL-HAYAH: "The defense

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counsel has begun preparing a file with the intention of suing the prison administration for preventing us from contacting him."

He spoke of some "illness afflicting Shaykh Hachani" but did not give the nature of it. [passage omitted]

FIS Statement on Breakdown of Contacts Cited

MM2507143895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "FIS: What Took Place With the Authorities Did Not Reach Dialogue Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Executive Committee of the [Algerian] Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Abroad has issued a statement in which it focused on the recent contacts that took place between the FIS and the [Algerian] authorities, explaining the reasons for the failure of these contacts. It stressed that what took place "were mere contacts during which documents were exchanged; they did not rise to the level of dialogue or negotiations."

The statement, signed the day before yesterday, said that on 9 April Shaykh Abassi Madani sent a message to the Algerian presidency "which marked the beginning of contacts and became the basis of discussions between him and General Betchine (minister-adviser to the Presidency) at Shaykh Abassi Madani's prison in the Algerian capital.

"The contacts met with encouragement from the authorities and made some progress. Thereupon, Shaykh Abassi Madani demanded that the other shaykhs, those who are still in prison and those who had been released, namely Abdelkader Hachani, Ali Belhadj, Ali Jadi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Kamal Kammazi, and Omar Abdelkader, be brought in to review what has already been discussed, verify and draft it, and complete the presentation of the FIS' proposals for ending the crisis.

"The outcome of the deliberations which took place at Shaykh Abassi Madani's prison was formulated in a document dated 18 June 1995, which Shaykh Abassi and Shaykh Hachani presented, proposing that it be discussed either with the shaykhs who have already been released or with the shaykhs who are still in prison, but only after their release or at least after their transfer outside prison to participate in the discussions with the released shaykhs. For in any case, the negotiations could not be held inside prison because prison would mean coercion, and coerced people cannot be held responsible.

"Shaykh Abassi Madani's presentation of the document in person, and his insistence on its discussion with or without his participation, refute the allegations that the document of the seven shaykhs was formulated to implement the documents of a final agreement previously concluded with Shaykh Abassi Madani. The multiplicity of the documents of the alleged final agreement, the fact that none of these documents was signed, and their failure to touch on procedural matters indicate that these documents were merely drafts of what was discussed.

"There were three documents pertaining to this subject: One consisted of 14 points, the second contained 16 points, and both of these were in Shaykh Abassi Madani's handwriting. The third document contained 17 points and it was this document that the representative of the authorities said that the Shaykh [Abassi] had approved."

The statement added: "It should be recalled here that what has taken place between the authorities and the FIS until now were mere contacts during which documents were exchanged between the two sides but they did not rise to the level of dialogue, let alone negotiations.

"When the authorities received the document drafted by the seven shaykhs and their representatives had a look at it, they made some remarks about it, despite the fact that we had asked for the document to be discussed point by point before handing it over to the authorities. But the latter insisted that the document be handed over to them prior to their discussion in order to have a look at it. Finally, the authorities agreed to discuss the document alongside another document they had prepared.

"In this context, we were asked to name our delegation to the negotiations while the authorities' delegation would be formed of two men, the first being General Betchine, the minister-adviser to the Presidency, who had the preliminary contacts with Shaykh Abassi Madani, and the second a person whose name was not revealed.

"We must stress in this regard that we were given the freedom to choose our delegation. Thus the released shaykhs were invited to meet with the shaykhs who were still in prison, with a view to selecting members of the delegation. The seven shaykhs felt that the deliberations should be moved outside the prison so that they would not be held in an atmosphere of coercion, which in other words meant that the authorities' representatives would meet with the released brothers. It was also felt that should the authorities refuse this and insist on contacting the shaykhs already in prison or some of them, then these shaykhs should be released first. But, unfortunately, both proposals were categorically rejected, thus obliging us to discuss the question of the delegation anew.

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"To avoid reaching a deadlock, which the authorities would blame on the FIS, we finally agreed that the negotiations be resumed with the imprisoned shaykhs or some of them provided that the negotiations would be held at an appropriate venue outside the prison. This proposal was put to the representative of the authorities, who immediately told Shaykh Abassi Madani that he prefers this venue for security reasons and that the president might hold the same view, but he would submit the proposal to the president anyway, who naturally rejected it again."

The statement added: "In short, the authorities which initially gave us the freedom to select members of our delegation, turned around and imposed on us the delegation and venue. The pretext the representative of the authorities gave for insisting on not changing the venue was that the authorities consider the question of the venue a mere formality. But the FIS considered it a matter of principle. Had the venue been a mere formality as the authorities allege, it would have been easy for them to provide another venue for the sake of the nation's interests and the prevention of bloodshed, particularly as it claims to care for the interests of God's slaves [the people] and the country.

"At this point precisely and in view of the authorities' conviction, Shaykh Abassi Madani told the authorities' representative: Suppose I fell sick and I needed treatment outside [prison], would you take me out? The representative of the authorities said: Of course, Shaykh. Thereupon, Shaykh Abassi replied: You do that for the sake of my personal and health interest, but you do not do that for the sake of the nation. So please reconsider your position.

After this conversation, no contacts took place with the authorities. From this, it is evident who was responsible for the failure of the contacts between the two sides.

"It is worth noting that the authorities which accuse the FIS of totalitarianism were astounded by the spirit of collective action evinced by the FIS leadership during these contacts, despite the repression, killing, and other acts of aggressions committed against it.

"The last contact between the two sides took place on 11 July 1995 and was to be followed by further contact on the next day. But the next day contact did not materialize, and we were surprised by the authorities' declaration on 13 July 1995 that the contacts had failed."

The statement explained that it was verbally agreed to release all prisoners and detainees and the only thing that remained pending was how to carry out this release. In the end, agreement was reached on defining the stages for the implementation of the release measures as follows:

— The pre-final agreement stage, that is the stage following the preliminary stage, when the three shaykhs, the southern detainees, and the prisoners against whom no final sentences have been passed, would be released.
— The second stage concerned those sentenced to medium terms of imprisonment.
— The third stage concerned those sentenced to death or life imprisonment. The conditions for these would be settled through a general comprehensive amnesty by the authorities, coupled with the need for suspension of the implementation of the death sentences. This is contrary to what was alleged by the director of the Presidential Office that the release of some prisoners would be carried out as an "act of mercy." This clearly proves the lack of consistency in the authorities' positions.

As regards the FIS, the authorities feel that it should continue with its programs, its basic law, and its original accreditation, and that only its name should change, because it felt that the FIS cannot continue from a legal point with its original name. But the shaykhs insisted that the FIS should remain with its name and contents because the decision to dissolve it was a political one camouflaged under legal cover, and a political decision can be annulled by [another] political decision, particularly as the authorities say that they were only transitional authorities that came into being for finding a solution for the crisis and that they were not responsible for the unjust and tragic decisions that embroiled the country in this multifaceted, stifling crisis. So where is the will to find a solution that the authorities are supposed to possess? The issue is one of willpower and intentions.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Musa Telephones 'Arafat, Peres

NC2507191195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss developments following yesterday's incident in Tel Aviv. The foreign minister also said he followed up on the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the obstacles that still preclude an agreement between the two sides to implement the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

Musa noted that he will leave Cairo for Tunis on 28 July to attend the Mediterranean foreign ministers meetings. These meetings seek to coordinate these

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countries' positions before the Barcelona conference for cooperation between the Mediterranean states and Europe in November, he added.

Mubarak Meets University Staff, Comments on Sudan

NC2507174195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alexandria, 25 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt will always care about the Sudanese people and will seek their friendship. He described the relationship between Egyptians and the Sudanese as eternal and a fundamental element of Egyptian policy. President Mubarak noted that there has not been and never will be a problem with the fraternal Sudanese people. Problems come from provocations and attempts to use certain situations for political gain, he added.

In a three-hour open dialogue with the Alexandria University Staff Council today, President Mubarak reviewed inter-Arab relations and prospects for regional peace. He restated the importance of consolidating the Arab League as a home for Arabs and pointed out that inter-Arab cooperation is steadily gaining ground, adding that more time is needed to organize the Arab home and clear up the remnants of the Gulf war.

The president noted that the peace process is proceeding satisfactorily and that the chances for peace are getting stronger daily. He said Egypt is anxious to achieve peace in the region.

After the meeting, Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din said: President Mubarak listened to the council members' questions and concerns on domestic, Arab, and international issues. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on confronting terrorism, Dr. Baha'-al- Din stated that President Mubarak said the State's policy is to firmly and continuously oppose terrorism and uproot it from Egypt. Mubarak added that everyone is beginning to oppose terrorism, which is new in Egypt and shows the people's rejection of this phenomenon and their positive moves to confront it. President Mubarak commended the leading and patriotic role undertaken by the security agencies to combat and eliminate terrorism.

Dr. Baha'-al-Din added that President Mubarak expressed optimism on Egypt's future and renewed his determination to proceed with the country's modernization. The president explained that efforts are being exerted in all fields and that the future will be brighter, God willing. Mubarak said he was optimistic that university professors and scientists will contribute to these efforts and all aspects of public duty.

Jordan's King Husayn To Visit 'Next Week'

NC2607102095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nayif Sa'ud al-Qadi has stated that King Husayn is expected to visit Egypt next week.

The ambassador told MENA that King Husayn will discuss with President Mubarak bilateral ties, ways to boost the Middle East peace process on the different tracks, and boosting Arab relations to restore Arab solidarity.

Papers Criticize World Position on Serb Actions

NC2607061295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0502 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian newspapers today agree that events in Bosnia are a human tragedy by any measure, stating that the Serbs are committing the hideous crime of annihilating an entire people while the international community stands with its hands tied. Major states seem to connive with the Serbs, doing nothing, but waiting until the Serbs devour their prey, the papers say.

AL-AKHBAR says the statements and warnings some Western capitals issue should not deceive us or calm our nerves; they have appeared enthusiastic before and assumed a false quixotic stance that has quickly gone down the drain followed by excuses justifying a hasty retreat. The massacres and rivers of blood will again fill the streets of Sarajevo, Bihac, Zepa, Srebrenica, and other Bosnian cities, the paper says.

AL-AKHBAR refers to the resolution the Islamic Contact Group adopted at its meeting in Geneva recently. It affirmed that the members will not comply with the resolutions banning arms exports to Bosnia and stated that arming the Bosnian people with the necessary equipment to confront the murderous clique and the descendants of the Tartars is no violation of an international resolution, but rather the righting of an unprecedented and unfair decision.

The paper says it hopes Muslim states will follow the example of Malaysia, which declared its willingness to supply the Bosnian Army with weapons to enable the Muslims to expel the Serbs from Bosnia.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that the Serbs would retreat many miles if they saw a strong, solid world position.

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It notes that the Serbs came out with a show of force by shelling Sarajevo and seizing Srebrenica and Zepa.

AL-WAFD, mouthpiece of the opposition Wafd Party, criticizes the propaganda that accompanies every plan to collect donations for Bosnian Muslims. The paper asks: Is this all we can offer the victims of the daily Serb aggression?

AL-WAFD quotes Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic saying: "We need weapons, not men; we need Arab and Islamic weapons to stand up to the new crusaders." The paper asks if the Arab and Muslim silence will continue until the last Muslim country in Europe collapses.

The paper says that all this is happening right under the noses of world leaders, who continue their meetings without taking any positive action while the Serbs continue their abominable massacre.

Minister Views Progress of Privatization Plans

NC2507153495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs, stated that economic reform means progress and state responsibility to avoid layoffs and suffering. He noted that the state is responsible for the rights of its employees and that reform is the fundamental step to transfer of ownership.

Speaking in Cairo today at the opening of the privatization and stock market seminar, which many businessmen, investors, and bankers attended, Dr. 'Ubayd said that this year, public companies' profits increased to 1,500 million pounds and that losses dropped by 500 million pounds, adding that some companies will have no losses next year.

The minister said the assets of public companies are 84 billion pounds and the debts are 66 billion pounds and that 270 companies have been evaluated so far.

Dr. 'Ubayd stated: By splitting the 314 holding companies' subsidiaries into three groups, 61 companies were seen as highly profitable, yielding greater than 10 percent on their capital; 145 companies were seen as profitable, yielding less than 10 percent on their capital; and of the other 108 companies, some reported losses but have since improved, some operated at small losses, and some operated at huge losses.

He added: We are expanding the base of ownership of the profit-making companies. The companies operating at a loss will be restructured to reverse their economic trends for eventual sale. He noted that no company's shares will be offered for sale unless the company's profits are confirmed; this ensures the best profits for the investors.

He said workers receive between 15 and 22 percent of the value of the production of any company, including various perks and wages.

Dr. 'Ubayd also said the shares of 60 companies have so far been offered for sale and this number will total 90 by the end next year. He added that shares of any other company can be offered for sale as soon as it has been restructured and improved, especially if its profits exceed 10 percent.

He stated: Our experience in selling to foreigners has proven their commitment to investing. They brought with them the modern expertise and technology needed for development, this led to success and marketing strategy. Also, we will use hire-purchase credit [ta'jir tamwili] in some production sectors like we did with cotton-weaving companies.

He said: Regarding the assets of the agricultural and agricultural development holding company, specific land areas were parcelled into four companies and sold at market value to individuals. This increased production; thus, we got rid of a low-profit activity. We also did this with the public works holding company. We sold 95 percent of its shares to the employees in installments, at a reasonable interest rate.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: Bosnia Political, Not Religious

LD2507150795 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution gave an interview to a number of correspondents representing international news agencies, where he talked about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina has become a real tragedy that has caused pain to innocent women, children, elderly people, and defenseless civilians.

The brother leader described this situation as a human tragedy and said that all the outside parties, including Europe, NATO, America, the Muslim countries, and Russia, have dealt with this issue with timidity and cowardice. This has made the tragedy worse and led to the deterioration of the situation, he stated.

In his news conference, the brother leader said: I am personally one of the people who are relied upon and who are blamed if they do not play a role in this problem. There is a Muslim side which is suffering and

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which is being slaughtered in this situation. This is what was said to me by the delegations I met from Bosnia-Herzegovina, representing the Muslims.

Libya is also the friend of the Serbs and Yugoslavia in general, and they can blame us if we do not play a role where they are concerned, just as we will be blamed by the Muslims if we do not play a role where they are concerned.

The leader added: I would like to give my honest opinion, as I am outside Europe and the circle of coward lackeys and outside NATO, America, and Russia. These powers have often sacrificed mankind and world peace for the sake of their ambitions. I am outside this suspicious circle. My opinion on this problem will therefore be the right opinion, because it is not the opinion of a party that has an ambition or a vested interest.

The leader continued: First of all I definitely do not believe that this fight is a religious conflict between Muslims and Orthodox Christians. This is not the case, because the Orthodox creed is the closest religious faith to the Muslims in the world. The Orthodox and Sikh faiths are close to Islam and I cannot imagine that there could be any conflict at all between Muslims and Sikhs or Orthodox Christians if the issue were purely religious.

The leader added: This conflict is 100 percent political and is not at all religious. It is a conflict among the leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Each one of them wants only to control Bosnia-Herzegovina. Each one of them has succeeded in creating an army in order to achieve his ambitions in Bosnia—Herzegovina. This has been politically acceptable in the history of the world. In other words, the existence of a political conflict between leaders and armies fighting each other is acceptable in the world and is always happening in the world. However, what is unacceptable and immoral, what I am opposed to, and what must stop at once is the sacrificing of followers of other religions. Sacrificing religion and its followers with a view to imposing political control over a territory is a real tragedy.

If Radovan Karadzic wants to control Bosnia-Herzegovina, this is permissible on condition that he controls the territory and those living on it, but if he expels the followers of Islam, for example, from the area he controls, this is immoral and it affects innocent people. If he wants to control Bosnia—Herzegovina or most of it, he should control it together with its inhabitants and should not search for those who are Muslim or non-Muslim.

The brother leader asked: What do the religious aspect, rites, and faith have to do with the control of territory and those living on it?

The brother leader said: From a racial point of view, there is no difference between those supporting Alija Izetbegovic and those supporting Radovan Karadzic. They are all Yugoslavs, and Bosnia-Herzegovina is Yugoslav; each side wants to control most of it. Let them control it. But why make a distinction between the Yugoslavs themselves and separate them into Muslims and Orthodox Christians? This is a crime, whichever side commits it. Even if Alija Izetbegovic's forces take control of an area and expel the Orthodox Christians from it, this is nypocrisy, a crime, and an immoral act. What Radovan Karadzic does now when he enters an area and expels the Muslims from it is also an immoral act.

The brother leader added: If there is to be a conflict in Bosnia, let it remain a conflict over who controls the largest part of the territory and those living on it. To expel the Muslims from their homes, however, and to expel Yugoslavs from their homes, shops, workshops, or farms because they are Muslims, this is unacceptable and cannot be justified; neither NATO nor the EU can resolve this issue.

The brother leader went to say: The safe areas where the conflict is taking place have become the scene of tragic atrocities. If they want to take control of these areas, let them do it, but together with their populations. If the conflict is not religious, why is there later a search on religious grounds in the area under their control? The conflict is basically a political conflict and not a conflict between one side that believes in God and another that does not.

Religious conflicts are a thing of the past, when there were heathens and believers and when the believers wanted to force the heathens to believe and the heathens wanted to turn the believers away from their faith. Therefore, the idea of a religious conflict here is rejected and does not exist.

The brother leader of the revolution asked: Why would the followers of any religion in an occupied area expel the followers of another religion, or why would either of them impose their religion on the other? There has been no prophet with a new message. They are all Yugoslavs. This is one thing.

From the start, the conflict was not religious; therefore why are the Muslims or the non-Muslims expelled from the area which falls under the other side's control?

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The other thing is that the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina is Yugoslav, whether Muslim or non-Muslim.

Further on al-Qadhdhafi Comments

LD2507184095 Tripoli JANA in English 1807 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tripoli, 25 July, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution made a press statement to a number of correspondents from international news agencies, about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He confirmed that the situation in Bosnia has turned into a real tragedy as innocent women, children, the handicapped and unarmed civilians are all harmed. [passage omitted]

The leader of the revolution questioned what is the relationship between people of faith in the occupied area. For the followers of a religion to expell those of another religion or for one of them to impose his religion on the other: there is no prophet who is there to preach his religion. All of these are Yugoslav. This is one aspect. The conflict from the outset is not religious. Therefore why are Muslims expelled presently and why are non Muslims expelled from the area controlled. The second aspect is that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are Yugoslav whether they were Muslims or non Muslims. The Slavs of the south that is the Slav race are those who possess Bosnia-Herzegovina. If we want to establish an Islamic state then this is not possible, because the conflict did not take this form of whether to establish a relgious state or not. The conflict was basically for the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is orginally a political conflict that is Bosnia—Herzegovina to be crushed without gaining independence. And if it is independent will it be ruled by Radovan Karadzic or Izetbegovic, even in case the Muslims can decide their destiny.

The leader of the revolution said Muslims do not establish a state in Bosnia-Herzegovina even if they are counted they will not form a majority. Therefore where is the interest of Muslims which we used to defend. The interest of Muslims requires that they stay in a united Yugoslavia and do not engage in the unreasonable currently taking place between Alija Izetbegovic and Radovan Karadzic.

The leader added that the parties engaged in the conflict are parties which are hypocritical and colonialist who are responsible for the massacres of Muslims who they claim to defend because these parties have purposes.

Germany wants to reinstate the build-up of the Fourth Reich at the expense of Yugoslavia by annexing Slovenia and Croatia and it is the one which persuaded Europe to recognise the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia. America wants to be present in the area so that Russia is not the only presence in the Balkans. This is an extension of the conflict between Russia and America, which still goes on.

Europe is afraid of the spread of armed militias and the spread of weapons and civil wars in the whole of Europe because now it is inflammable, as the Second World War and the arrangements of the war made it a mine-field which it does not want to detonate. Europe is in the mouth of the volcano because all borders are arbitrary and unnatural. As for Russia, it wants to defend the Slavs who are one race. It does not want to leave the Balkans to America or Europe or Germany. As for the Islamic states they do not know the basics of the issue because they do not have a policy and they don't understand the issue. These are surrogate states.

The leader of the revolution said my advice for Muslims in that area is that they will not have a future or an entity except through federal Yugoslavia. The Muslims as slaughtered citizens and as tortured have nothing to do with this conflict. They have to decide whether to divide Yugoslavia or go out of it. These are the ambitions of leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina, whether they were Muslims or non-Muslims. The Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina are the victims of the conflict between the leaders who did not decide the battle. The important thing is that to try and solve the case from the same approach will not lead to any result but will give more time for blood shedding and killing of innocent victims.

The leader added if Radovan Karadzic goes on with the religious cleansing which is unjustifiable, he will turn the Muslims case into a historical case such as the Jewish case. This is not in his interest and it is not in the interest of Yugoslavia. He exaggerated in giving the religious aspect in order to cover-up the true political aspect of the conflict. It is an exaggeration which will blow-up what he wanted and will make the Muslim case like the Jewish case in the days of Hitler.

The leader revealed that Muslims should not aspire to establish an independent state in Bosnia-Herzegovina because all of Europe, America and Russia have agreed against the establishment of an Islamic state in the European continent. Those who claim to sympathize with them are hypocritic and can't be trusted. The muslims in Yugoslavia are the southern Slavs before they were Muslims. That is the only identity which will save them and they have to stick to it. If the conflict is inevitable between Alija Izetbegovic and Radovan Karadzic then it has to be on the land and those who live on it. The acts of violence and conventional army

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operations have to be directed in accordance to the war law and the Geneva Convention. The civilians should not be touched regardless of their religion in order to make the conflcit moral and in accordance to the war law.

On a question over the French position to solve the conflict in Bosnia—Herzegovina the leader replied and said: This conflict would not be solved by military intervention. The French President Chirac is sincere in what he says. France ultmately wants to alert the international community not to engage or to agree on the unreasonable. This applies not only in the case of Bosnia but I interpret it as applicable on Lockerbie, Iraq, Somalia, Panama and Grenada.

On another question on whether the war in Chechnya had been a religious or a political war, the leader said what is taking place there is a national conflict within the pattern of nationalities that constitute the Russian Federation. The era of nationalities has emerged. Each nationality wants independence. Even if the Chechens were of another religion or even if they were infidels but Chechens are Chechens and Russians are Russians. It is feared that this conflict might spread in the Russian Federation and the nationalities that constitute the federation become independent. It is a national conflict and not religious. It has to be solved by negotations. If Russia had interfered to solve this problem by force then it will fail in the same manner Abyssinia failed in solving the Eritrean problem by force. It failed eventually and Eritrea became independent.

The leader said the continued struggle in Chechnya raises the anger of other nationalities in Russian Federation and make them sympathize with the Chechens and express their desire in independence. It is feared that if the war spreads in the Caucasian mountains then no conventional army can quell it. The national conflict in the Russian Federation claimed the Muslims as victims, regretably, as is taking place presently in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims became victims for a political conflict between the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mauritania

Opposition Leader Gives Views on Elections

AB2507201595 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 25 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program; as heard throughout]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mauritania's main opposition parties have formed a common front to fight the next elections in two years' time. Since they boycotted the 1992 election, the opposition have no seats in parliament, but the new alliance looks like posing something of a challenge to President Taya and the ruling party. The six-party alliance is dominated by the Union for Democracy and Progress, and by the Union of Democratic Forces, which is led by Ahmed Ould Daddah, the son of Mauritania's first president. On the line to Nouakchott, Alice Martin asked Ahmed Ould Daddah what he hoped to achieve by forming this new alliance:

[Begin recording] [Daddah] We think the opposition parties have a common interest to join their efforts in order to make more transparency in the next elections. The past elections were tricky, and it is very dangerous for democracy, we think, and very dangerous for a country's stability.

[Martin] Now, you yourself are a very well-known opposition figure. What will you be able to achieve more than you have tried to achieve already, which has been very little, in fact? You have no representation at the moment in Parliament at all.

[Daddah] We are interested to [word indistinct] the future election. We would like to know them transparent and not tricky.

[Martin] What are your conditions for participating in the next parliamentary elections in 1997?

[Daddah] Right now, it is necessary to have a list.... [pauses] A correct list with all the citizens' names to participate in the elections. We are interested too to have a document without falsification.

[Martin] So, you would like to have a correct electoral code, and a correct electoral list?

[Daddah] Exactly.

[Martin] And an identity card for everyone who is voting?

[Daddah] Yes. Now, the carte d'identite [identity card] is copied (?anywhere), and we need to participate in radio.... [pauses] official radio and television for debating about the country's problems.

[Martin] So, at the moment, you have no access to the media?

[Daddah] No access, absolutely not, and last but not least, we need to have international observers to supervise the future elections.

[Martin] These last few years must have been very difficult for you. Are you now completely marginalized from the political process?

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[Daddah] We are totally not informed about official policy. We have no dialogue with power, and we have no information, not at all, about his policy and his targets, but we think strongly our party has the majority in the country, and we think it is a good point. [end recording]

Morocco

Leader Urges UN, OIC Meeting on Bosnia

LD2507234795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, received the ambassadors of Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Russian and French charge d'affaires in their capacity as representatives of the member states of the UN Bosnia Contact Group. On behalf of the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], the prime minister recalled the tragic developments in Bosnia, particularly after the fall of the safe area, Zepa, to the Serbs.

In this context, the prime minister stressed the need to convene an urgent joint meeting of the Islamic and UN Contact Groups on Bosnia at the ministerial level to study the ways and means that would put an end to Serb breaches of the UN Security Council resolutions, all of which are aimed basically at protecting the safe havens.

Abdellatif Filali presided over a meeting of the OIC's Bosnia Contact Group in Geneva on 21 July.

King Hassan Receives Iraqi Foreign Minister

JN2507164495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 25 Jul (INA)—Moroccan King Hassan II received Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, in Rabat today.

During the meeting, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf conveyed a message to King Hassan II from President Saddam Husayn, dealing with the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council.

The foreign minister briefed King Hassan II on this relationship and on Iraq's fulfillment of all its international obligations, something which necessitates that the UN Security Council fulfill its obligations toward Iraq by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Attending the meeting were Crown Prince Mohamed, Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco.

Al-Sahhaf had earlier met with Abdellatif Filali and Abdelhedi Boutaleb, adviser to the Moroccan king. They discussed Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council and the UN Special Commission in light of the latest developments, in addition to a number of issues of joint interest.

EU Rejects Conditions for Fisheries Accord

LD2507133895 Rabat MAP in English 1320 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, July 25 (MAP) — The conditions set by Morocco for the conclusions of a fisheries accord with the European Union (EU) are 'unacceptable', European Fisheries Commissioner Mrs. Emma Bonino said.

No date was set for the resumption of negotiations in this regard, Mrs. Bonino said Monday at the end of a visit to the Spanish northern region of Galicia, where she conferred with regional authorities and the fishing sector representatives.

According to the EU commissioner, Morocco made proposals on the reduction of the catches of the EU vessels fishing in Moroccan grounds, the increase of the number of Moroccan sea-farers on board of these vessels and the unloading of the catches at Moroccan ports.

She on the other hand vowed opposition to the creation of 2,000 miles zones by coastal states and the readiness of the EU to start negotiations with third countries to monitor fishing activity in international waters.

Sudan

Official Denies Massing of Troops in Hala'ib

EA2507204295 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 25 July (SUNA) — Director of Political Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Dr. Anwar al-Hadi has affirmed that Sudan leaves the door open for any mediation aimed at solving the dispute between the Sudan and Egypt peacefully.

Dr. al-Hadi responding to questions by reporters at the regular Foreign Ministry press briefing Tuesday [25 July] pointed out that the Sudan had adopted a clear stance from the very beginning calling for solving the problem at the bilateral level in the context of the deep-rooted relations linking the two sisterly peoples. But the Sudan had waited for a visit to Sudan by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to discuss the dispute between the two countries as it had been agreed upon but to no avail Dr. al-Hadi said.

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He pointed out that Sudan welcomes all mediation efforts and at the same time Sudan reserves all it rights adding that the Egyptian regime does not leave the Sudan with any other option except arbitration. The Sudan will accept the result of arbitration whatever it is, he affirmed.

On the fate of the Sudanese soldier still held captive by the Egyptians Dr. al-Hadi explained that the Sudanese Government contacted the International Red Cross after the capture of three Sudanese soldiers by the Egyptian forces in Hala'ib Province recently after the Egyptians barred the representative of the Sudanese Embassy Cairo from visiting them.

He went on say that the Egyptian authorities instead took two of the captives and just threw them beyond Latitude 22 Degree North leaving them in a deplorable situation describing the act as non-ethical and non-Islamic. Dr. al-Hadi said that the third soldier is still in Egypt calling for a good treatment for him specially that he is wounded.

Dr. al-Hadi denied the existence of any massing of Sudanese troops in Hala'ib pointing out that there is only one Sudanese battalion surrounded by eight Egyptian battalions.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia

EA2507164695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement on events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the brutal and inhuman treatment of Muslims there such as killings, torture, expulsions, destruction, and rape, which grossly violate human rights, and intensified religious cleansing targeting of the defenseless Muslims, and destroying their dignity.

The statement stressed that the Foreign Ministry is calling on the international community to awaken its conscience to what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and urged the Muslim states to adopt a united front on restoring the dignity and legal rights of those Muslims. The statement called on Muslim (?states) to quickly convene a conference to adopt resolutions, and take effective steps to halt Serb aggression, and lift the arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia.

Committee on Integration With Libya Meets

EA2507181095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, chaired a meeting of the ministerial committee on Sudanese-Libyan integration at the Republican Palace today. It was attended by Retired Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, secretary general of the Sudanese-Libyan Arab Integration Committee.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr stressed the need for the two sides to support integration in different fields in order to strengthen relations, and to guarantee the continuity of the integration process between the two countries. He called for the removal of obstacles affecting legal and customs procedures in the two countries. He also praised the efforts of the secretary general of integration in this regard.

For his part, the secretary general of Sudanese-Libyan integration, Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, praised the Sudanese leaders' interest and promotion of integration toward achieving Arab and Muslim unity. He also reviewed the achievements made by the [word indistinct] general of Libyan-Sudanese integration. He called for the implementation of the agreements, and underscored the need to activate the work of the technical committee on integration, and to concentrate on promoting investment.

SSIM Seeks To Join Opposition Grouping

MM2507150595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im: "Mashar Seeks To Join Sudanese Opposition Grouping"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Dr. Riak Mashar, leader of the "South Sudanese Independence Movement" [SSIM], has asked the leaders of the opposition's [Sudanese] National Democratic Grouping [SNDG] to accept SSIM's membership in the SNDG, following the latter's agreement to grant southern Sudan self-determination and its decision to use armed action to topple President 'Umar al-Bashir's regime.

In a message — of which AL-HAYAH obtained a copy — addressed to Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, SNDG and Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] leader, and Mubarak al-Mahdi, SNDG secretary general and the Ummah Party's official in charge of foreign affairs, Mashar said that the SSIM National Liberation Council held a meeting to discuss the resolutions of the opposition conference held in Asmara 15-23 June.

He added that the SSIM "congratulates the Sudanese parties and opposition forces which met in Asmara for their daring step of recognizing the right of self-determination for the people of southern Sudan, the Nubian mountains (west), al-Anqasna hills (east) and the Abibi region (bordering the south) [last two names as

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transliterated], and their decision to hold a referendum under UN supervision with the aim of ending the war."

He said that his movement, which did not participate in the conference, "will work sincerely for the implementation of and respect for these resolutions." He continued: "With this letter, our movement is applying for membership of the SNDG which has recognized the right of self-determination for the people of the south, the aim for which our movement led support since August 1991." And he referred to "the SNDG's acceptance of armed action as a way of bringing down the regime of the National Islamic Front [NIF]."

Sources close to the SSIM say that the movement attaches special importance to its joining the SNDG because "it, not the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by John Garang, controls most of the southern territory adjacent to the north. If the northern parties are serious about fighting the government militarily proceeding from touchlines between the north and the south, then they would need Mashar's cooperation more than they would need Garang whose areas of military influence are on the Ugandan and Kenyan borders."

They add that Mashar "does not want the southerners represented in the national opposition by Garang particularly as the downfall of the government would mean giving Garang a free hand in the south which would result in new bloody battles between southerners."

Opposition sources believe that Mashar's application is unlikely to be accepted because it would upset Garang's supporters. But other sources believe that "there is room in the opposition ranks for everyone but Mashar is required to give priority to Sudan's unity when it comes to the question of self-determination because that was the spirit of the Asmara agreement."

Policemen Released by Egyptians, Arrive

EA2507143595 Khartoum SUNA in English
1014 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Port Sudan, 25 July (SUNA)—Two of the three policemen detained by the Egyptian authorities during a barbaric operation on June 27 by Egyptian commandos at Abu-Ramad Hala'ib province, arrived here Monday [24 July] while the third is still in detention.

An official source from Port Sudan police stated to SUNA that the two Sudanese policemen were deported by the Egyptian authorities to beyond Latitude 22 degrees north in a deplorable condition where they were taken to Ausaif [place name as received], then to Port Sudan by air. [sentence as received]

The source affirmed that the Egyptian authorities refusal to hand them over to the International Red Cross when they were deported in that inhuman way. [sentence as received]

Interviewed by SUNA, the two policeman, Lance Corporal Hasan Husayn Ali, and Private Abidin Taha Izzeddin, explained that [words indistinct] Egyptian special forces that attacked the Sudanese police force at Hala'ib affilate to the Egyptian commandos in the area.

The two policemen explained how they were subjected to torture and degradation by the Egyptian regime following their arrest, adding that the third, Aunoor Mustafa Aunoor [name as received] was horribly attacked on his abdomen which was torn open and is still being treated at a hospital in Cairo.

The two policemen were received by Dr. Hassai Awli, acting Red Sea state wali, the commander of the marine forces and a number of military and political high ranking officials in the state.

Students Recruited for New Islamic Organization

NC2507201395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1605 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese sources have revealed that the ruling regime in Sudan has started to recruit Muslim students from Arab, African, and Asian countries who are studying in Sudan for a new Islamic organization. The organization teaches students to carry the banner of Islamic change and support for the Sudanese Government.

To attract students to this organization, the declared name of which is the Committee for the Care of Students Arriving in Sudan, the education minister will exempt them from education fees, which are 30,000 Sudanese pounds [LSd] per year, and double the monthly grant from LSd6,000-12,000 per student. Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Khartoum resident who is known for his support to terrorist groups and who has been recently stripped his citizenship by the Saudi Government, has donated $10,000 to the new student organization.

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The same sources added that the organization's first conference was held last week. Present at the conference were Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Abu-Salih, Sudanese first vice president, and Education Minister Ibrahim Muhammad 'Umar. The conference's recommendations were not made public in the official media. Invitation to the first conference of the new organization was exclusive to Muslim students studying in the African International University, formerly the African Islamic Center; the Khartoum Institute for Arabic Language, Omdurman Islamic University, the Holy Koran and Political Science University, and al-Jazirah University.

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Kuwait

Defense Minister: 70% of Military Capacity Regained

LD2607100395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0705 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 26 Jul — In a press statement published here today, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah said that the Defense Ministry had regained 70 percent of its military capabilities, including modern training of troops and army officers and purchase of modern machinery and equipment.

In a statement to AL-ANBA newspaper, al-Sabah added: "The remainder, which is 30 percent, has been postponed because of the budget deficit," referring to the fact that the budget is tied to a specific timetable that "obliges us to purchase the necessities."

He pointed out that Kuwait had received some modern weapons that were purchased recently from a number of countries. He said some of these weapons had started arriving to Kuwait.

He mentioned that friendly countries had been invited to take part in special drills and maneuvers next year in Kuwait. Some of the most modern machinery and weapons purchased by Kuwait would be used in these exercises.

The defense minister stressed that the military agreements that were signed in accordance with the country's defense requirements aimed at "enabling the Kuwaiti Army to repel any aggression, whether from the north or any other enemy."

Following the Iraqi invasion in 1990 Kuwait signed security agreements with the Security Council's permanent members, namely United States, UK, Russia, China, and France.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Departs for Iran on Brief Visit

JN2607111195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 26 Jul (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister of Qatar, left Doha for Tehran today on a brief visit to Iran. He was seen off by Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah al-Mahmud, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Doha.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Calls For Lifting Bosnia Arms Embargo

LD2507195595 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the servant of the two holy places, has sent messages to their majesties and excellencies the heads of the UN Security Council member states, in which he has dealt with the very grave developments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the continuing Serb hostile military operations in the UN-declared safe areas in Bosnia, and the mass killings, rape, and inhuman practices perpetrated by the Serb forces against the civilian population.

The servant of the two holy places urged the leaders of the UN Security Council member states to bear the responsibility assigned to the council for maintaining world security and peace, to adopt all the required measures to force the Serb forces to immediately stop executing their hostile schemes, to provide the necessary means for the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning the Serb aggression on the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina, particularly those concerning the safe areas, to implement the UN peace plan, to deem the crimes perpetrated by the Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina as crimes against humanity, to pursue those responsible for them and refer them to the international war crimes court.

The servant of the two holy places also asked the leaders of the UN Security Council member states to enable the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense, guaranteed under Article 51 of the UN Charter, by lifting the arms embargo imposed on it.

The messages of the servant of the two holy places come within the intensive efforts made by the Kingdom to provide material and moral support for the Bosnian Muslim people, and as an immediate response to the implementation of the decisions made at the meeting of the Islamic contact group held in Geneva on 21 July.

Egyptian Ships Arrive for Joint Naval Exercises

LD2507205295 Riyadh SPA in English 2024 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, July 25, SPA — Egyptian ships which will participate in "Morjan 1" exercise arrived in Jeddah Port on Tuesday [25 July] morning.

The ships were received by Brigadier General Mohammed 'Abd-al-Khaliq Assiri, the operations director

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of the Western naval, the Egyptian ambassador to the kingdom and the Egyptian military attache.

Later in the day, the Saudi Royal Naval Forces and the Egyptian naval forces started the week-long joint exercise to be conducted within the Saudi and Egyptian territorial waters.

An official at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation said the maneuvers were designed to upgrade the performance of the commanders, officers and troops on command and control of joint marine units taking part in operations scenes.

The exercise was planned for more than on month.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Envoy Departs Following Visit

LD2507181095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the Libyan president's envoy and member of the Revolution Command Council, and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah today after a visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at Abd al-'Aziz International Airport, Jeddah, by his excellency Dr. Khalid al-'Anqari, minister of higher education and acting minister of information and a representative from the Royal Protocol Department.

CDLR Bulletin on Validity of Regime

MS2607103995 London CDLR Monitor in English 14 Jul 95

[CDLR Bulletin No. 56 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet 26 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part eight

Ambiguities and Their Answers...

1) The series regarding the legality the regime has caused great debate and discussion amongst scholars. Many of those who had previously accepted the validity of the regime soon discovered — as a result of the series — that the factual evidence was actually contrary to that which they had previously accepted. However, several questions related to matters of a rather ambiguous nature have also been raised; perhaps in good faith, perhaps not.

A number of answers to some of the queries now put forward were actually included in the series, but we feel that it would be beneficial at this stage to discuss such queries further and in a more direct manner with more emphasis on detail, in order to enable greater clarification.

Some scholars have claimed that the rule of al-Sa'ud is no different from the rule of the Umawi state, of which the Companions and their successors did not question, with regard to its legitimacy, despite the injustice and debauchery prevalent in the state. It must be said that this rather dubious query is particularly weak, and can be readily clarified in a number of ways.

Firstly, despite the fact that the Umawi rulers committed considerable acts of repression and injustice, it was still evidently clear that none of these rulers ever legislated or invented regulations contrary to Islamic Shari'ah and that they were totally committed to their allegiance to Islam. In addition to this, all Islamic rites were followed. In this series we have differentiated between the personal actions of injustice and cruelty perpetrated by rulers and the actual breaches of the legitimate conditions of leadership in Islam.

Secondly, it is patently untrue that the Companions and their successors actually accepted the leadership of a debauched oppressor. In fact, it has been made clear that numerous Companions and their successors did, in fact, revolt against the Umawi state. Indeed, the majority of the Companions refused to support the confirmation of Yazeed's leadership (the son of Mu'awiyah, the founder of the Umawi state). The revolt led by the grandson of the Prophet (PBUH) [Praise Be Upon Him], al-Husayn Ibn-'Ali (RAA), and that led by 'Abdullah Ibn-al-Zubayr, are clear and irrefutable examples of dissent against Umawi rule.

The fact is, that 'Abdullah Ibn-al-Zubayr was the legitimate Caliph of the Muslims, and he was supported by the majority of the Companions, their successors and the general public throughout Hijaz, Egypt, Africa, Iraq and the whole of the Arabian Peninsula. The only area held by the Umawi was the Al-Sham region (Palestine, Lebanon, Syria). The Umawi leader of the time, Marwan Ibn-al- Hakam, had actually been on the verge of giving his support to 'Abdullah Ibn-al-Zubayr. Marwan, in fact, took his authority by force, and was succeeded by his son Abdul-Malik, who later gained public acceptance only after the death of 'Abdullah Ibn-al-Zubayr (RAA). Only then did Abdul Malik become the Caliph of the Muslims.

There were other famous revolts, such as that of al-Ash'ath and all the scholars against al-Hajjaj, in Basrah, and the refusal of Sa'id Ibn-al Musayyib, Sa'id Ibn-Jubair, Tal'at al-Habeeb, and Qutaybah Ibn-Muslim to pledge their votes to support the Umawi Caliph. Therefore, any claim that the Companions and their successors accepted the leadership of oppressors and

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debauchers is totally without foundation in historical fact. Even so, in our discussion we are not dealing with the injustice of rulers but rather with the clear and actual departure from Islam, the substitution of Shari'ah and the suppression of Islamic rites.

If, for arguments sake, we accept that the al-Sa'ud state is similar to the situation of the Umawi state, then the legitimate duty would have been to implement Islamic rule and judge both states on that basis. The outcome would most certainly be the illegitimacy of both states, as the actions of the Umawi state are not legitimate evidence — that evidence lies in the Shari'ah, after a full and comprehensive understanding of such.

Thirdly, there has been no mention of violent revolt in the series but it was said that the legitimate leadership has been disabled and that it must be re-established by all legitimate means possible. We also said whoever accepts that the Shari'ah has been substituted and Islamic rites perverted has a duty of taking the necessary steps to stop such heinous sins by using all legitimate means. Those who assume that any declaration or attempt at reform, or enjoining good and forbidding wrongdoing is a type of revolt, are actually violating Shari'ah. It is a well known fact amongst scholars, that if a leader orders a forbidden action, then he should not be obeyed in that particular decision, regardless of whether he was a righteous leader or otherwise, legitimate or illegitimate. Obedience to a ruler who implements laws other than Islamic Shari'ah is forbidden and that is in relation to all of his orders. The dispute between the scholars is only concerns the legitimacy of leadership by the unjust or debauched.

All of this differs to violent revolt which, in the scholars jargon, is conditional upon violence. However, as the official scholars were unable to debate their fragile arguments and so establish their evidence, they then resorted to the enforcement of their opinions with the use of language such as "Khurooj" (violent revolt), in an attempt to prevent reformers and preachers from carrying out their duties of constructive criticism and offering advice when deemed necessary.

News

The Ministerial Changes...

It is thought that the ministerial changes to which we referred in a previous bulletin, will be taking place in the near future. Many observers believe that all ministers outside the royal family will be removed with, perhaps, the exception of the Minister of Higher Education and Councils. Observers of royal family affairs are of the opinion that Sultan and his brothers have decided to cease being courteous to the scholars and the shaykhs and to unveil their relationship with secularists by appointing a number of their prominent figures into critical positions.

Some of the names mentioned are; Salih al-'Umayr — Deputy to the Finance Minister; Dr. Muhammad al-Tawil — Head of the General Administration Academy; Dr. Bakr Bin-Bakr — Chancellor of King Fahd Petroleum and Metallurgy University and 'Ali Ibn-Muslim. On the other hand, there have been other surprising nominations from inside the family, as evidence in the past has indicated that they should be alienated from any type of responsibilities. Amongst those names are Khalid al-Faysal, the prince of Al Asir Province, Khalid Ibn- Sultan and Faysal Ibn-Fahd. Some Western sources mentioned that the reluctance in declaring any changes is the King's and the Sudairi brothers' wish to remove Sa'ud al-Faysal from the foreign ministry. Therefore they have to prepare a suitable environment inside the family in order for such crucial decisions to be accepted, particularly as Sa'ud al-Faysal does not attempt to hide his wish to remain in his position. This is probably why his brother's name, Khalid al-Faysal, has appeared in the nominations — in other words his nomination is an attempt at appeasement after the removal of his brother. It is also due to the close relationship between Khalid al-Faysal and Sultan Ibn-'Abdul-'Aziz, the actual ruler at the present time. The Sudairis also find Khalid al-Faysal much easier to manipulate and influence, especially as they have stood by him on many occasions against the people of Asir.

New Forgeries...

The latest forged Communique is entitled "Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz Under House Arrest." This forgery stated that the authorities had placed Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz under house arrest in Riyadh. We confirm here that the communique is a forgery and the Committee has no new information regarding the Shaykh's present status.

Meeting Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz...

Meeting Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz is now no longer as simple as it was in the past. Intelligence personnel turned away a delegation of people who had arrived to see the Shaykh about the detained scholars, in particular, Sheikh Humud al-'Uqla.

We would like to inform this delegation that they have lost nothing by being unable to meet the Shaykh, as numerous delegations have visited him regarding the same subject and received no response.

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Excuses...

A large number of scholars and sheikhs have criticised one of the judges who participated in the judicial crime, as mentioned in previous bulletins, of sentencing most harshly a number of young men, university lecturers and scholars. After public pressure towards the judge, he presented the excuse that he should actually be congratulated because he had been directed by the authorities to pronounce more severe sentences than those he actually passed! He stated that if it were not for his efforts and generosity, he would not have been able to reduce the sentences requested.

The judges duties in Islam have now changed from implementing the rule of Shari'ah, to implementation of the rule of the oppressor, after attempts toreduce sentences.

However, many have appealed to the Committee to publish the full names of the judges involved. These names are as follows: — Hamad al-Mughil, Sa'id Ibn-'Ali al—Shiddi and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Hamad al-Sheykh.

Humood al-'Aqil — A Prominent 'Jamee'...

Scholars have urged the Committee to expose Humood al-'Aqil's role in betraying a great number of shaykhs, preachers and reformers. Observers have mentioned that Humood is extremely active and that he presents regular, detailed reports on the activities of preachers and reformers. It is believed that he had a role in the detaining of Shaykh Humood al-'Uqla.

A Princess Threatens the Judge...

A stubborn princess, the daughter of Bandar Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and sister of the Prince of Qasim, has 'acquired' a piece of land owned by the Council of Uneizah. The size of the land is approximately 80,000 square meters. Council officials brought the case to court in an attempt to retrieve their land but the princess hurriedly threatened the judge, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al- 'Urayni, that she would use her influence to transfer him if he took action against her.

May Allah help the judge!

Journalistic Bribe...

Cheque no. 2-39-52, dated 12/10/1415H, signed by the Media Minister, was made out to pay 100,000 Riyal to a prominent Lebanese journalist. This was sent with a special message from the Custodian to improve the ugly image of the Saudi rulers presented in the Lebanese media and was also an attempt to silence the circulation of al-Sa'ud scandals in Lebanon.

The prominent writer, Riyadh Najib al-Rayyiss, in an interview in AL QUDS newspaper several weeks ago, gave an indication that the Kingdom is planning to gain total control over the Lebanese press.

We have added add the cheque number and its date to this information from Mr Riyadh.

Medina Appeals for help...

The Committee have received a letter from the people of Medina, headed by the title "Help." They complained of the lack of water during this particularly hot summer. It is a well known fact that Medina is one of the few regions actually blessed with a considerable supply of water. However, the company in charge of extracting the water is controlled by the prince of Medina who is using the water for his own personal benefit, with little regard to the desperate needs of the people.

Yemen

Legislature Sends Statement on Bosnia to West

JN2507180995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A committee of the House of Representatives, headed by brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, member of the House of Representatives Speakership, has visited the embassies of the United States, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom.

During the visits, the committee handed the ambassadors of these states a statement issued by the House of Representatives on brutal Serb aggressions against the Bosnian Muslim people. The statement also deals with the role, which should be played by the international community, especially the permanent member states of the Security Council, in order to end aggression and injustice to the peaceful Bosnian people and to apply the resolutions of the international legitimacy through a uniform, rather than double standard so that the international legitimacy and the new world order will not lose their credibility and nations' confidence in its usefulness.

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Tel Aviv Suicide Bomber 'Hailed' by TV Station

NC2507193195 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 25 (AFP)—Iraq on Tuesday [25 July] hailed the suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv bus that killed five Israelis.

State-run newspapers described Monday's bomber as a Mujahedeen (Islamic holy warrior) after he blew up the bus, killing himself as well as four Israeli women and one man.

Youth Television, which is run by President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Uday, quoted one person as saying "this heroic act is the appropriate response" to the Israeli occupiers.

Palestinians and other Arabs interviewed stressed the "need to pursue the armed struggle against the Zionists and their American allies," the television said.

Israeli Products Said Sold in Baghdad Markets

JN2507164095 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources in Baghdad recently said that Israeli products have started to be displayed on the market in Baghdad, and that they are being sold in public and with the knowledge of the regime. The said sources noticed that there is something behind this display of the Zionist products, particularly luxury articles, on the market in Baghdad. Merchants prefer selling them against U.S. dollars or any other foreign currency.

The sources added that this sudden change has to do with the secret meetings between officials from the despot's regime and the Zionist entity which usurped Jerusalem. The sources said that large quantities of these products have been dispatched to Jordan over the past two weeks and from there were sent to Baghdad.

Minister Cited on Promotion of Ties With Iran

LD2507122595 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed that both Iran and Iraq are willing to remove obstacles on the way of promotion of bilateral ties.

In an interview with the Qatari daily, 'AL-RAYAH' published Monday, he reiterated that Tehran-Baghdad relations have improved. The daily quoted him as saying that following three rounds of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the two countries have reached agreements on taking practical measures to normalize relations.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi daily 'AL-JUMHURIYAH' quoted the deputy Iraqi foreign minister as claiming that the Islamic Republic of Iran is creating hindrances on the way of expansion of mutual cooperation. The Iraqi official also claimed that no Iranian prisoners of war has been remained in Iraq. The Islamic Republic of Iran is for improvement of bilateral relations and creation of a healthy atmosphere for regional cooperation and has always moved in this direction.

An expert in Iraq's affairs said that following the establishment of cease-fire between the two countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been making efforts to settle the existing problems and improve bilateral regions.

Iraq should cooperate with Iran in order to fully implement the the U.N. Resolution 598, to release all Iranian POWs in Iraq and to determine the fate of those Iranians missing in action, the expert said.

He added that the fate of the POWs and those missing in action are two vital issues on Tehran-Baghdad relations and that Iraq must demonstrate its good will in settling these problems.

At least, 5,000 Iranian POWs still remain in Iraq, whose fate must be determined immediately, the expert concluded.

Source: Special Commission Can Close Biological File

JN2607100195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—A Foreign Ministry source has stressed that the UN Security Council's Special Commission can close the biological [weapons program] file at the date set by Iraq if good intentions are displayed and if the issue remains within its technical context.

In a statement published by AL-JUMHURIYAH here today, the source said the bases which Iraq has adopted to set that date are principally linked to the technical nature of the subject and to the fact that the Special Commission's future monitoring is working effectively, as confirmed by the Commission itself.

He noted that there is no link between the reports which Ambassador Rolf Ekeus presents and the periodic review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. He said Ekeus can present his reports at any time he wishes and this does not depend on the date of the UN Security

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Council's periodic review, which is conducted once every 60 days.

The source said: The periodic preview concerns Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687 which relates to the lifting of the comprehensive embargo, while Ekeus' subject is connected to Paragraph 22 of the said resolution which concerns lifting the economic embargo. Ekeus' report is, however, taken into consideration at the periodic review.

Security Council Urged To Fulfill Commitments

JN2207110295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Iraq removed all pretexts that obstruct the implementation of Article 22 of Resolution 687. Hence, Iraq should feel the benefit of its cooperation with the United Nations, represented by the sacrifices Iraq has offered as a prelude to lifting the economic embargo and later ending the blockade totally.

In an article today, the paper adds that this again reminds us that the Security Council has reciprocal commitments regarding Iraq's cooperation. As stipulated in Resolution 687, these commitments are represented by lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Consequently, Iraq, should exercise its right to manage its own trade unconditionally.

Referring to Iraq's cooperation, AL-QADISIYAH cites the frank acknowledgement by Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, who frequently said that his mission aimed at removing the weapons of mass destruction would end once the biological arms file is closed. Iraq is now seriously cooperating with Ekeus to close this file within a few weeks.

The paper says that any contrary position by the Security Council will be part of the policy of procrastination and deception. This policy is now pursued by the United States after it realized its futile wager on the blockade which was designed to peddle the U.S. conspiracies against Iraq's independence and also after it failed to achieve this objective through the treacherous 30-state aggression and the chapter of treachery and treason.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: In brief, U.S. policy seeks to gain as much time as possible to perpetuate the blockade, so its serious economic and health repercussions will inflict further harm on the Iraqi people and impede their ability to achieve progress. This policy consitutes a savage, deliberate annihilation of the Iraqi people. It is like sentencing them to a slow death.

Concluding, the paper says: By demanding that the Security Council fulfill its reciprocal commitments regarding the blockade, Iraq is not threatening anyone or any party, it is simply exercising its legitimate right to defend itself against the U.S. annihilation policy.

Al-Sahhaf Views Egypt, UN Sanctions, Kurds

MM2507131795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo on 20 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Allam] You have met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa amid climates which give the impression of a gradual improvement in relations between the two countries alongside positive Egyptian statements concerning the lifting of the international sanctions on Iraq. Hence, will the coming days witness the restoration of relations between Cairo and Baghdad?

[Al-Sahhaf] Iraq's Arab policy is clear and moves in one direction, namely, to welcome all steps that could be agreed upon for the consolidation of relations with the sisterly Arab countries. Despite all the conditions that have surrounded all of us, we believe that all the existing positive indications should prompt everyone to take mutual steps for the creation of the necessary climate for joint Arab action and the promotion of this action step by step into fruitful pastures.

Iraq welcomes the Egyptian executive officials' statements concerning Iraq. We affirm that Iraq has implemented all its commitments contained in the UN Security Council resolutions despite the harshness of these resolutions. This is what is prompting our Arab brothers and even the international base to side with us in demanding the lifting of the siege imposed on Iraq.

['Allam] Do the current pointers mean that contacts between Egypt and Iraq for the restoration of relations between the two countries have been on a slow burner?

[Al-Sahhaf] We are working for this end and we are optimistic about it. This is because we are brothers and relations between us should be at the best possible level.

['Allam] Do you expect something tangible to take place in the field of relations with Cairo?

[Al-Sahhaf] This is not a field for expectation. But with serious work we will get there.

['Allam] Is there serious work going on at present between Egypt and Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] Certainly. For we are two sisterly countries and very strong relations had existed between us.

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['Allam] Do you feel as a result of your visits to a number of Arab countries and your meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that the attitude toward Iraq is moving toward the easing of the sanctions and the lifting of the oil sanctions when the time comes for the revision of these sanctions next October?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is now a more open Arab atmosphere toward Iraq that shares our feelings toward the unjust embargo. We hope these feelings will be translated into action. We are doing all we can with our brothers in order to create an Arab solidarity stand with Iraq, now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations.

['Allam] Do you feel optimistic?

[Al-Sahhaf] Certainly.

['Allam] The Arab League Council will be meeting on 20 September, that is prior to the UN Security Council's review of the question of the sanctions. Do you think it would be possible to have a crystallized Arab position on the lifting of the sanctions formulated by then?

[Al-Sahhaf] We have explained all the details within this framework to the Arab League secretary general and requested that the Arab League would take a stand in support of Iraq's right to have the sanctions lifted.

['Allam] Some observers attribute this positive dealing with Iraq by some quarters to their desire to strengthen these quarters' regional position prior to the convocation of the Oman economic summit which is due to be held in October and which might witness the inauguration of a Middle Eastern market and the allotment of economic roles and tasks in the region. What do you say to that?

[Al-Sahhaf] My feeling is that the present conditions do not provide any opportunity for other than inter-Arab cooperation. The so-called Middle East market is no more than an illusion drawn up by a foreigner who wants to suck the blood of the region and not to develop or improve the living conditions of its people. Every bet placed on the Middle East [market] will be a losing bet, for this market is only a trick devised by quarters who understand nothing but exploitation.

Likewise, joint Arab action and the implementation of plans studied and drawn up over many long years with regard to an Arab common market is our only means for resolving the problems of all of us Arabs.

All requisites for Arab cooperation are there. But to abolish the expression of the Arab Homeland and replace it by a false expression (the Middle East) is no more than a foreign design which is not in our interest. What we feel from our brothers is a true Arab desire akin to the true Iraqi desire for the development of relations of cooperation.

['Allam] In the light of this, do you expect the restoration of relations between Iraq and Egypt or for that matter any other Arab country prior to the convocation of the Oman summit?

[Al-Sahhaf] I am talking about Arab cooperation and not the Oman summit. The Middle East [market] has nothing to do with the Oman summit or the Moroccan summit. It is an old Zionist idea. What I mean is that Arab cooperation in all fields will make each of us healthy, strong, and ready to continue the march along the road of progress.

['Allam] Following Iraq's release of the two American prisoners, do you expect a change to take place in the U.S. position during the coming review of the UN sanctions on Iraq with a view to the lifting of these sanctions or would the U.S. Administration take more consideration of next year's American presidential elections?

[Al-Sahhaf] The release of the two prisoners was a humanitarian step which has nothing to do with anything else. After receiving a plea from the U.S. President (Bill Clinton), President Saddam Husayn decided to use his constitutional powers for the release of the prisoners. In other words, President Saddam accepted the plea, which the American senator (William Richardson) who delivered it had described as a plea from the U.S. President and Congress.

As to how the United States will act with regard to the lifting of the siege, we hope that it will not take an odd position that conflicts with the UN Security Council resolutions. If it chooses to take such a position, then that is up to it. But this will mean that it is standing against the UN Security Council resolutions which commit the Council to the lifting of the sanctions as long as Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under these resolutions.

['Allam] If the United States opposes the lifting of the sanctions next October, what will Iraq's response be?

[Al-Sahhaf] Then we will not be bound by any obligation toward the UN Security Council. For we are not prepared to continue to deal (with the Council) until they give us our rights.

['Allam] How far have the contacts between Turkey and Iraq progressed with regard to the repeated Turkish penetration of northern Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] The Turks have announced that they want to annihilate the mutinous Turkish Kurds, and this is

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odd, because the mutinous people are inside Turkey and there are 16 million Kurds in Turkey. But Turkey claims that some of them are in northern Iraq. Furthermore, Turkey is the cause [of this situation], because it permitted American and British forces to set up camp in its territory in order to prevent the submission of northern Iraq [to the Baghdad regime], and that is what led to the growth of the gangs there.

We have told Turkey that once it rejects the American policy, the mutiny will collapse and you will be safe, because Iraqi authority will then return (to the north) the following day. But the Turks uttered contradictory statements and said that they have sent their army into northern Iraq because the mutineers (the Turkish Kurds) go to northern Iraq because of the vacuum of authority that exists there. But this vacuum is caused by the American forces which were able to do this [to create an authority vacuum] with the help of Turkey.

This duplicity is the cause of the Turkish problem. We have conveyed to them our denunciation and warned them more than once that this contradictory policy will bring nothing but catastrophe to Turkey. This is because the American policy serves the interests of America which thought that the anarchy in northern Iraq would spread to the other parts of Iraq, but this failed to materialize and its agents began to fight each other. We seek good relations with Turkey, but the policy of its government is wrong and will only bring catastrophe to Turkey.

With regard to northern Iraq, we are not worried, because the abnormal conditions that exist there are bound to end. The Kurdish citizens of Iraq cling to Iraq's unity and safety and they are the subject of a dangerous American scheme.

['Allam] Will the current contacts between the Iraqi authority and the Kurdish parties result in any official dialogue in Baghdad and will you grant pardon to some opposition members?

[Al-Sahhaf] The contacts with the Kurdish political parties have never ceased at all. But they have not borne fruit yet because the United States prevented Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani from coming to Baghdad to sign an agreement between themselves. So they wish to do so but are being prevented from doing so. As soon as Turkey stops the American forces from interfering in northern Iraq, the leaders of the Kurdish parties will come to Baghdad and sign the agreement among them.

PUK Praises U.S. Initiative To Resolve Fighting

NC2407155995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] Political Bureau has issued a statement in which it praises the important and positive U.S. role whose objective is to end the internecine fighting in Kurdistan. The statement expresses the PUK's readiness to accept the U.S. initiative and send its delegation to an agreed European country on a date to be set.

In addition, the PUK agrees to send brother Jalal Talabani to the proposed meeting with Mr. Barzani in the presence of ranking U.S. officials.

The above-mentioned statement also expresses the PUK's thanks to the U.S. Administration for its interest in our Kurdish people's just cause and its concern to stop the fighting in Kurdistan. It is noteworthy that brother Jalal Talabani received a message on 20 July from Mr. Robert Wick, the U.S. State Department official responsible for the northern Gulf region, containing a U.S. initiative to resolve the internecine fighting in Kurdistan province.

Further on PUK Response to Initiative

MM2507153095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Talabani Accepts U.S. Initiative; Positive Response Expected From Barzani"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Jalal Talabani) has announced its acceptance of the U.S. initiative to end the Kurdish infighting in northern Iraq and its agreement to send a delegation to a meeting, sponsored by U.S. officials, with the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani). Western sources expect Barzani's response to the U.S. initiative to be positive. [passage omitted]

A highly placed source in the Iraqi National Congress [INC] has welcomed the U.S. initiative. In reply to a question by AL-HAYAH, he said that the INC received a copy of the U.S. message to Barzani and Talabani and added that there has been a significant development in the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan in that the United States has come up with a practical initiative for the settlement of the dispute, tackling the current problem in detail and carefully in the form of negotiations under U.S. sponsorship between the political bureaus of the two Kurdish parties and with the participation of the INC.

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He added: "The initiative is not confined to the negotiations but will continue after that in the form of cease-fire observation and resolution of the current problems in Kurdistan."

KDP Accused of Hampering U.S. Efforts

NC2407181795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Political Bureau's statement on the message from Mr. Robert Wick, the U.S. State Department official responsible for the northern Gulf region, to brother Jalal Talabani confirms once again the soundness of the PUK's stance and its constant readiness to work to restore amity to Kurdistan and cooperate with all sides whose objective is to realize a comprehensive peace and entrench security and stability in the Kurdistan region.

Mr. Robert Wick's message expressed the U.S. belief in the possibility of a political and peaceful resolution to the conflicts between the two warring sides in Kurdistan. The message confirms the need for cooperation between the two sides to restore the authority of the region's government in the region and the futility of negotiations with the regime in Baghdad. The PUK, which has been forced to fight by the leadership of Mas'ud [Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP], has believed in a political dialogue ever since internecine fighting started in Kurdistan. It has submitted many peace proposals with the objective of normalizing relations in Kurdistan, and it has accepted all peace initiatives and projects submitted by the Kurdish and Iraqi political sides, international and regional bodies, and our people's friends abroad.

As for the other party—that is, the KDP—it has from the very beginning attempted to create obstacles and hindrances and to obstruct the peace march in Kurdistan. The KDP continues to reject direct negotiations with the PUK; and it is stealing the region's customs' revenues, particularly the revenues from the Ibrahim al-Khalil customs' point. It is also imposing a complete blockade on more than 70 percent of the population of Kurdistan.

In contrast, the PUK has devoted all its resources and efforts to establishing a comprehensive peace in Kurdistan, rising above narrow party interests. It has not refused to attend any meeting anywhere which might find a way to restore security and stability to the region. For example, the PUK did not reject the U.S. delegation's proposal that brother Jalal Talabani and Mr. Mas'ud Barzani travel to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, for direct bilateral talks there. However, the KDP absolutely rejected this proposal and announced that it is not ready to do so.

This shows that the PUK stance is closer and more committed to the constructive international stance regarding normalizing the situation in Kurdistan, particularly the constructive U.S. stance which was made very clear in the message sent by Mr. Robert Wick, the U.S. State Department official responsible for the northern Gulf region. Because of the importance of this message, the PUK's political bureau responded to the contents of this message and accepted to send its delegation on the proposed date to the proposed European country. It also expressed its willingness to send brother Jalal Talabani to attend the proposed meeting with Mr. Mas'ud Barzani in the presence of ranking U.S. officials and agreed to stop attacks and military operations immediately if the other side will observe a truce supervised by observers from the Unified Iraqi National Congress and the Kurdish parties.

In its statement the PUK's Political Bureau also affirmed the need to pay employees with the government revenues from the Ibrahim al-Khalil customs point and the other Kurdish regions.

The PUK's constructive stances and its readiness to always strive to realize peace and meet the desires of the Kurdish masses who are yearning for peace compel the KDP to move in the right direction and to abandon the policy of starving the Kurdish people while insisting on war and aggression. This is particularly true since the international and U.S. stances confirm the need to find a peaceful political solution to the conflict between the two warring sides in Kurdistan. But if the KDP insists on maintaining its aggressive stances and on pursuing war and aggression, the negative repercussions will be the sole fault of the leadership of Mas'ud, which has rejected all efforts to establish peace in Kurdistan and always stood in the same trench as our enemies and the renegades.

PUK Radio on KDP Refusal of Dialogue

NC2507184295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1520 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Among the important issues that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Political Bureau stated the day before brother Jalal Talabani received a message from Robert Wick, U.S. State Department official in charge of the north Gulf, was that it agreed to immediately stop attacking and taking military action against the other party if it abided to a truce supervised by observers from the Unified Iraqi

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National Congress and the Kurdish parties. The PUK agreed to this because it believes in establishing a comprehensive peace in Kurdistan and foiling attempts by enemies of the Kurdish people and their democratic experiment. It wants to devote its resources to bring views between the disputing parties closer together.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leadership failed to comply with the declared truce with the PUK. It accepted the truce only to reorganize and strengthen its forces, which suffered bitter defeats in battles with the PUK forces. The Mas'ud Barzani leadership accepted the truce but refused direct dialogue with the PUK to normalize Kurdistan, thus blocking the best way to achieve peace in Kurdistan.

The PUK will cooperate with international and regional parties that seek to help resolve the differences between the two parties. And, as the military and political balance tips in favor of the PUK, the willingness to cooperate shows the PUK's eagerness to achieve peace and save the democratic experiment in Kurdistan from the danger of [word indistinct]. The Mas'ud Barzani leadership's failure to respond to the parties seeking to restore peace in Kurdistan and its insistence on war, slaughter, causing starvation, colluding with the Iraqi regime, and rejecting direct dialogue with the PUK show that the KDP leadership is striving to harm our Kurdish people's future, achievements, and democratic experiment. This will lead to negative results, not only harming the Kurdish people and their democratic experiment but also the overall democratic process in Iraq. This makes it incumbent on all Kurdish and Iraqi parties to force the Barzani leadership to pursue logic and reason and respond to the calls for peace and say that it is ready for direct dialogue with the PUK to achieve a comprehensive peace in Kurdistan.

PUK, KDP Continue Attacks in North

PUK Radio Reports Clashes

NC2407170995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday evening, 23 July, armed men of the traitorous leadership in the Party [Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP] waged a two-way attack on the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga's positions in Tall al-Gurah, Shilan, and (Kontina). The brave Kurdistan peshmerga of the (Sara) force and the (Leshker) detachment confronted them and forced them to withdraw and run away after inflicting devastating human and material losses.

In another development, at 2000 yesterday a group of armed men from the traitorous leadership in the Party attacked the positions of the Kurdistan peshmerga in (Jamesh Tappah) hamlet. However, the honorable peshmerga of Kurdistan were lying in waiting for them. They resisted and managed to thwart this attack in less than one hour, inflicting human and material losses on it.

Another group belonging to the Party attacked the PUK peshmerga's posts in the mountains of (Qlaw Qasim) and Shakha Sur. However, the Kurdistan peshmerga succeeded in thwarting this attack and causing very serious damage to the group.

Baghdad TV Reports Fighting

JN2407202095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 95

[All Kurdish names as heard]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Clashes continued yesterday and today between the Jalalis [supporters of Jalal Talabani] and the Barzanis [supporters of Mas'ud Barzani] in the autonomous region.

The special INA correspondent in Irbil says that the Jalalis yesterday launched an attack on the Barzanis' positions in the areas of Zardakan and Klaw Qasim on the Shaqlawah axis. However, they failed to budge the Barzanis from their positions despite the fierce attack which lasted two hours. Several persons on both sides were killed or wounded.

The correspondent adds that the Jalalis stormed carpenter shops in Irbil and forced carpenters to make wooden coffins for their dead. Another report by the correspondent says that sharp differences erupted between two Jalalis named Kosrat and Jabbar Farman. Kosrat holds Jabbar Farman responsible for the recent losses sustained by the Jalalis. [passage omitted]

KDP: Talabani's Largest Attack 'Wiped Out'

JN2407210795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1907 GMT 24 Jul 95

[News report headlined: "The Jalalis' Largest Attack Wiped Cut" — all Kurdish names of places and persons as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] O honorable masses of Kurdistan: Following the defeat of the Jalalis' attacks over the past two weeks at the hands of the Party [the Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP] and its brave peshmerga; and after they drank the cup of defeat and bitter death, they began to gather their defeated remnants to again try their bad luck. This time, they launched the largest attack on the defense positions of our heroic peshmerga, considered by the Jalalis' media as their decisive attack. The Jalalis launched their attacks on two axes:

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The first: The Diran-Spindana axis, northeast of Shaqlawah. At 1030 on 23 July 1995, they launched a large-scale attack from Sherif, Bagur, Bayt Shaykhah toward Dakkan and Klauqustum. The peshmerga of Kurdistan bravely confronted the enemy attack. After one hour of fighting, our peshmerga inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and forced them to withdraw leaving many dead bodies behind. At 1600 on the same day, 23 July, they launched a new attack and a third attack at 2100. They launched the last attack on our steadfast peshmerga positions at 0400 on 24 July near the villages of Fariz and Spindana. However, the results of this series of attacks were as follows:

1. All their continuous attacks were defeated. In the last attack, the aggressors escaped under the fire of our heroic peshmerga after sustaining heavy losses in personnel.

2. The losses of the enemy attack were heavy in terms of dead and wounded, and the Jalalis withdrew in disarray at the hands of our heroic peshmerga. Jabbar Sarmand, the commander of the defeated attacks of the Jalalis, contacted his forces over the radio (?rebuking) these defeats after he learned about the defeat inflicted on his forces.

3. In addition to the dead bodies the Jalalis were able to remove from the battlefield, many dead bodies remain scattered in front of our peshmerga's positions.

The second axis: Donbaridon and Klauqasim-Zarkan. At 1030 on 23 July, the Jalalis launched an attack on our peshmergas simultaneously with their attack on the Diran-Spindana axis. They continued their attacks at 2100 on the same day and at 0400 on 24 July, during which, they sustained heavy losses in personnel. Although the Jalalis managed to occupy some footholds in areas which do not have any strategic importance after they sustained these heavy losses, the heroes of the Party and the lions of Barzani launched a counterattack on the morning of 24 July, during which, they were able to purge these areas from the filth of the Jalali aggressors. The number of Jalalis killed in the counterattack was far more than those killed in their previous attacks. Also, many dead bodies were left in front of our peshmerga positions. Although many of those killed did not have identity cards, the following were identified:

1. Lutfi 'Abd-al-Karim from Chamchamal; 2. Himan 'Abd-al-Rahim, an armed soldier in the second center of the Jalalis; 3. Nu'man 'Abd-al-Rahman from Karkuk.

The hero and commander of these big defeats of the Jalalis was Jadara Muto and his aides: Mahmud Singawi, Shaykh Ja'far, and 'Uthman Hajj Mahmud.

50 Said Killed in Recent Battle

NC2507142995 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nicosia, July 25 (AFP)—At least 50 people were killed in a fierce battle between rival Kurdish factions for control of an area near Irbil in northern Iraq, foreign aid workers said Tuesday [25 July].

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) unleashed an artillery barrage late Monday on positions held by its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Irbil.

"At least 50 people died in this clash where the attacking faction used heavy artillery," a senior official from a UN-affiliated aid group said, contacted by telephone.

Aid workers said they believed the PUK was trying to cut off the KDP headquarters in Salah-al-Din, a hilltop resort 30 kilometres (18 miles) northeast of Irbil.

The KDP charged, in a statement received in Cyprus, that the PUK had lost more than 25 fighters in repeated attacks on KDP positions east and northeast of Shaqlawa on the road between Irbil and Zakho since Sunday.

"The PUK forces numbered a few thousands and supported with artillery and rockets launched a two pronged military offensive."

Three waves of attacks were launched Sunday on positions from Zerdakan to Qlaw-Qasim with three similar attacks in the Heran area. Renewed attacks were launched Monday, the KDP said.

"These human wave attacks have been defeated and the attackers lost over 25 men who could be identified with many more injured. Their losses are much higher according to intercepted radio messages from their military command," the statement said.

It further accused the PUK of breaking the three-month ceasefire on a daily basis since July 9 with "repeated attacks on KDP positions around Irbil, Shaqlawa and Rawanduz."

But the statement maintained the attacks had been "aborted and repulsed and their forces sustained high casualty rates estimated at more than 300 dead." [passage omitted]

KDP on Attack by Talabani Forces

JN2507203595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1842 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0500 on 25 July, the defeated Jalalis [Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan forces] in another failed attempt, attacked the

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(Sindarah) area in the (Biran-Sindarah) axis. But, the hero peshmerga forces of Kurdistan confronted them, opened heavy fire on them, and defeated the Jalalis in a short period of time, forcing them to withdraw.

As a result of the attack, the Jalalis sustained unspecified losses in life while our hero peshmerga sustained no casualties.

BABIL Condemns Talabani, Barzani 'Crimes'

JN2607101795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0720 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has strongly denounced the criminal acts committed by agents Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani against our Kurdish citizens in Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

In an article today, the newspaper says: Yesterday, agents Talabani and Barzani boasted that they received orders from their American and Zionist masters to settle their problems, which they themselves have fabricated.

The paper says: Representatives from Jalal's and Barzani's gangs began to issue competing statements, such as those that talk about the nearly complete destruction of Rawandoz and the suffering in other towns in northern Iraq due to fierce fighting, in which various weapons were used and in which several innocent victims were injured.

The paper adds: The dwarf Jalal brags that he received a message from the director of the North Gulf Desk at the U.S. State Department suggesting that he meet with Barzani to conclude a new agreement.

The paper says that all the pretexts and excuses which the United States and its agents used to create tension in northern Iraq under various covers and slogans such as "Provide Comfort," "Safe Area," and Kurdish rights have been exposed. Meanwhile, Voice of America, the BBC radio, Radio Monte Carlo, and Jalal's representative in Damascus have become the vital source for news on the savage fighting.

The paper concludes: Thus, the gangsters of Barzani and Talabani are eating from the U.S., Zionist, Iranian, and Turkish table and are enjoying it because they were brought up on betraying Iraq. This suggests that the situation in Kurdistan Autonomous region is now like a ripe fruit waiting to fall into the basket of the united, lofty Iraq.

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Victim of Ramat Gan Bus Blast Dies of Wounds

TA2607052495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Another victim of the Ramat Gan bus bombing has died. In Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, 38-year-old Mordekhay Tuvya died of wounds sustained in the blast, raising to six [as heard] the number of Israelis killed in the attack. Eighteen victims of the attack are still in hospital. The condition of one is described as serious. The rest are listed in light to moderate condition.

Indyk Said Lobbying To 'Torpedo' Golan Law

TA2507173995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that Martin Indyk, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, has been operating behind the scenes in the Israeli political arena to torpedo the Golan Law. Among others, Indyk met representatives of Knesset factions, such as Arye Der'i of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and tried to persuade them not to support the law.

[At 1720 GMT, the announcer adds: "Here is the first reaction to the report we broadcast at the beginning of our program about meetings held today by U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk with representatives of Knesset factions in a bid to torpedo the Golan Law. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan sharply reacted to the report, saying it is very serious if Indyk has come to Israel to politically influence a certain position."

[At 1725 GMT, the announcer adds: "Senior Likud sources told our correspondent Dov Gilhar that they hope SHAS will vote tomorrow in accordance with Israel's interests rather than those of the United States, thus reacting to the report that Arye Der'i of SHAS was one of the men who met with the U.S. ambassador. At this point we have not received a reaction from the U.S. Embassy on the issue, although we requested one."]

SHAS Denies U.S. 'Pressure'

TA2607053495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Arye Der'i, SHAS faction leader, by Menahem Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Do you realize the enormous damage the passing of the Golan Law could have on the entire political process with the Syrians, which is so important to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] mentor Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef?

[Der'i] I met yesterday with the prime minister, who explained what he believes the repercussions could be.

[Friedman] And did he not convince you?

[Der'i] I explained the situation to the rabbi and also told him about other meetings I have had. Our position, and I believe also that of the rabbi, is that we are very disappointed with how al-Asad is conducting the negotiations. All Israel's appeals have been seen by al-Asad as a sign of weakness. Almost all agreements have been violated. He acts as though he is doing Israel a favor in making peace. We want to make it clear to him through today's vote that if he thinks that SHAS supports a settlement at any price, he is mistaken. He must understand that in order to make an arrangement with Israel, he must make concessions on security issues so that the people of Israel can accept it. I think today's vote will encourage al-Asad and serve as a lever to spur him to attend the talks.

[Dan] One more question. Was one of those trying to pressure you U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk?

[Der'i] Definitely not. It was merely an attempt to make a headline by saying that Indyk tried to pressure me, but that I did not cave in. That merely does him an injustice. From the day he arrived here, several months ago, the ambassador asked to meet with me, but we did not manage to arrange it. This meeting was decided on three weeks ago, and he did not raise the issue at all.

[Friedman] So who leaked it, since you had a tete-a-tete meeting?

[Der'i] No, there were more than just the two of us present. I do not speak English well, so there was an interpreter. I raised the issue. I explained to him what our political ethos is and what our political status is. I gave him my assessment that the law would not serve as an obstacle with al-Asad, but rather become a lever. He told me that there is a different assessment — not his — that al-Asad would see it otherwise. He did not try to pressure me and he did not initiate the discussion. It simply does an injustice to the guy just to make a headline that the U.S. is intervening. It is simply wrong.

[Later in the same newsreel, political correspondent Udi Segal says: "The U.S. Embassy denies the lobbying report, saying Indyk held a courtesy call and get-acquainted meeting with Der'i which dealt with an array of Middle East issues, and not specifically the Golan Law. In reaction to rumors that Indyk intervened on domestic political issues, the embassy spokesman told

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us the only lobbying Indyk has done in Israel is to increase U.S. imports, especially automobiles."]

Labor Secretary on Indyk Meeting

TA2607083295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Nehama Dowek and Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Martin Indyk, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, met yesterday with Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i.

The issue of the vote on the Golan law came up in the meetings, which were held in the Knesset and lasted one hour each. "The ambassador wanted to know what would happen in the vote and whether we have a majority," Zvili recounted yesterday. "I voiced my surprise at their concern, and explained to him that even if we fail and the bill is passed in a preliminary reading we can still bury it in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The U.S. ambassador did not accept my explanation and said: If the bill is passed, even if only in a preliminary reading, Israel will be held responsible for the failure of the talks. You are misjudging the impact of the vote. As far as the world is concerned, the meaning will be that you do not have a majority in the Knesset for peace with Syria." [passage omitted]

Criticism about Indyk's interference in Israel's domestic politics was leveled yesterday in the political establishment. Opposition sources were furious about Indyk's meeting with Der'i and noted that it should be regarded as an illegitimate attempt at interfering in the political arena. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan told Channel 2 that he takes a very serious view of the U.S. attempt to influence the vote in the Knesset. "Israel's economic dependence on the United States must stop, because he who gives us bread will not hesitate to tell us the kind of salad we should eat."

In contrast, Labor sources noted that U.S. ambassadors have for years met with MK's and party leaders and that there was nothing new about Indyk's meetings. Zvili said that the meeting with Indyk had been set up a few weeks ago, and the fact that it was held one day before the vote on the law was merely a coincidence. [passage omitted]

Knesset Rejects Golan Bill; Qahalani Vows Fight

TA2607133795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset rejected the amendment to the Golan Heights Law requiring a super majority for any territorial concessions on the Golan Heights. The vote ended in a tie with 59 Knesset members [MK's] supporting the bill and 59 voting against it. Following a debate on the various bills, several proposals were dropped and the Knesset voted only on the bill presented by Labor MK's Qahalani, Zismann, and Shefi. YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] MK Alex Goldfarb voted against the draft proposal.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that prior to the vote, Goldfarb consulted his wife who told him to do whatever was best for peace. Goldfarb said he had considered supporting the bill and then resigning as deputy minister; however, he ultimately decided to act as he did.

MK Avigdor Qahalani said that he would continue fighting for the Golan Heights. Qahalani said he had no intention of leaving the Labor Party for the time being; however, he would have to reach a decision with regard to his future before the next elections.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the three Labor MK's who initiated the proposal had acted wrongly by placing the government's international standing at risk.

Peres Denies Promising PLO 'All Cultivated Land'

TA2607113095 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday denied the report published in HATZOFE three days ago, that said he promised Yasir 'Arafat in their meeting in Alexandria that the Palestinian Authority would be handed over civilian responsibility for all the cultivated land, along with all the state-owned land in Judaea in Samaria, including land located in the midst of Jewish settlement blocs.

The foreign minister said the report was totally unfounded and that he had not promised all the cultivated land to the PLO.

Weizman Urges Permanent Arrangement for Talks

TA2507122095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 25 July reports that in a meeting with leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza during a tour of Ma'ale Adumim, President 'Ezer Weizman said he was "worried about the growing rift in the nation. He believes that negotiations with the Palestinians should immediately revert to the permanent arrangement and that the argument over Hebron will be tougher than the one over Jerusalem. He wondered why only 140,000 Jews settled in Judaea and Samaria, even though many governments

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had extended aid to the settlers since the Six-Day War. He added that the right-wing governments did not annex Judaea and Samaria so as not to give Arabs the right to vote for the Knesset."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 25 July adds that Weizman reiterated in the meeting that "there will be no argument whatsoever in the negotiations with the Palestinians over Jerusalem and the greater Jerusalem area, including Ma'ale Adumim. He believes that Jerusalem will not be the toughest issue that will obstruct political progress."

The report goes on to say that earlier in the day a Tzomet delegation called on the president "to discuss ways to bridge over the rifts in the nation and to prevent a civil war. Weizman raised the possibility that Tzomet might join the government, but they rejected it as long as negotiations continue with the Palestinians."

Civil Administration Orders Land Expropriations

TA2307103295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration in the Janin area issued orders yesterday for the expropriation of 18 dunams of agricultural land east of the town for the construction of military bases following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment outside Janin.

The orders were handed to local mukhtars, who said they had been told that the authorities plan to expropriate approximately 250 dunams from the Palestinians in order to build a road bypassing Janin from the east. The road would lead from southeast of Janin (the entrance to Qabatiyah) toward the Green Line in the area of the village of Jalamah. The road is apparently designed for the use of settlers from Qadim and Ganim, two small settlements east of Janin. The expropriation orders are valid for four years.

IDF Ordered To Stop Settlers Blocking Roads

TA2307101495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, has issued an order not to permit settlers to block West Bank roads. The order came in the wake of discussions held at the Central Command following the incidents on 21 and 22 July in which settlers blocked dozens of intersections in the West Bank, set tires on fire, and clashed with IDF soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Biran assessed the situation together with his staff officers over the weekend and received continuous updates from Central Command sector commanders. A senior military source said the soldiers have been ordered to immediately remove roadblocks from now on and not to tolerate any disruption of daily life. The IDF will employ special measures to identify settlers planning to block roads and take additional steps to prevent similar occurrences. As part of this trend, the IDF will declare large areas closed military zones if the settlers attempt to operate there. [passage omitted]

Peres: IDF To Stay in 5 Villages

TA2607102295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will stay in five Arab villages when it redeploys in Judaea and Samaria, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

Peres was speaking during a discussion on 42 topics relating to the political situation, which have been sent to the plenum via motions for the agenda over the past two years. The debate is to continue next week.

"(The IDF) was never in (all) 420 villages," Peres said. "So we are actually vacating only a small number of villages."

Peres added that security on some of the roads in the territories would remain in the IDF's hands.

Peres said that of the $1.6 billion in grant money which donor nations promised the Palestinian Authority over a five-year period, 35 percent, or $550 million, has been delivered. Of this, $400m. has been used, he said.

"We weren't able to solve the problems of unemployment, housing...and sewage (in Gaza)," he said. "Gaza was a stain on Israel's conscience.... We are conducting negotiations due to a free moral choice."

"After two years, there are barely any MK's [Knesset member] who suggest returning to Gaza," he added.

Ministers Upset With Treatment of Settlers

TA2407115095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 95 pp A1, A6

[Report by Yerah Tal, Nadav Shragay, and Lili Galili]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Speaking at the cabinet session yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin addressed himself to the settlers demonstrating against the government and the implementation of the interim agreement.

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He said: "We must realize that we are headed toward a confrontation between two world views." Rabin further told the ministers that "this is not about making declarations or definitions. In this conflict, we need to act wisely and intelligently."

In the brief political discussion they held yesterday, several ministers criticized the fact that while settlers blocked roads in the West Bank last Friday, the security forces treated them very gently. Minister Avraham Shohat said he was shocked when he saw on television pictures of settlers throwing rocks at Palestinians and clashing with the police. He was supported by Ministers Amnon Rubinstein and Ya'ir Tzaban. [passage omitted]

Minister Shulamit Aloni expressed her dismay over the fact that the security forces did not react to the settler riots in the West Bank. She asked the prime minister why the security forces did not disperse the Jewish rioters with tear gas, as they do with Arabs. She also complained that the mobile home that was illegally placed near Efrat has not been removed from the site. Rabin told her that in this case, placing the home there had been approved.

The Likud yesterday issued a statement reacting to the remarks Minister Aloni made regarding the settlers, saying: "The remarks are reminiscent of the gravest anti-Semitic attacks against the Jewish people. These are very grave remarks that tend to delegitimize the right of Jews to live in Eretz Yisra'el."

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza also issued a statement that said that "the government that Aloni claims to be speaking for is racist. It discriminates against Jews in numerous areas in Judaea and Samaria. The Arabs there have doubled their riots and terror attacks against Jews since this government came to power but, other than dealing with terror with firearms, the government does nothing to deal with the tens of thousands of cases of stone throwing and road blocking.

"Illegal construction is spreading and thousands of illegal houses have been built since the Rabin government was founded. Meretz and Minister Aloni convene the government every other day, whenever a mobile home is being moved from one hill to another, but choose to ignore the illegal construction by the Palestinians, the continued intifadah, and persistent Palestinian law violations in every field."

The council further said that "the Palestinians do not even hear about the rule of law, but the law is being very strictly applied to the Jewish settlers, no matter how small their felony is. This is being coupled now with the fomenting remarks by Minister Aloni." Qiryat Arba' settlers yesterday called on the Knesset to lift Aloni's immunity. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Proposes 'National Security Plan'

TA2507165295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu has proposed the introduction of a national security plan, which his party would support without actually joining the government.

Netanyahu says Israel should stop freeing Palestinian prisoners, 'Arafat should be asked to hand over terrorists, the Palestinian security forces would be denied the right to enter Judaea and Samaria, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would have freedom to operate. With more details on the plan, David Ze'ev reports from the Knesset:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] [passage omitted] Opposition Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says he is not interested in government seats or portfolios, but in uniting the people with an emergency security policy which, he says, should include four points: a halt in the release of Palestinian prisoners, a demand of the Palestinians to hand over murderers in Gaza and Jericho, a stop to the entry of Palestinian forces in Judaea and Samaria, and freedom to the Israeli Army to act in pursuing attackers and in preventing terrorist actions. [end recording]

Third Way Reveals Plan for West Bank Arrangement

TA2407120195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some 9,000 settlers will have to decide whether to move to territories annexed to Israel, or stay in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, according to the permanent settlement proposed by the Third Way movement yesterday.

Third Way leaders called on the government to stop the negotiations over the interim settlement with the Palestinians and proceed immediately to the permanent settlement.

Presenting the movement's draft for the permanent settlement at a Tel Aviv press conference, Third Way leaders MK [Knesset member] Avigdor Qahalani, Yehuda Har'el, Lt.-Gen. (res.) Dan Shomron, Alex Lobotzky and others said the government has no permanent plan and no red lines in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

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"The Palestinians have a definite permanent program for a Palestinian state from the Jordan River to the 1949 truce borders and all their demands derive from that, including water rights, state lands etc. We, on the other hand, have no such plan," Shomron said. "The negotiations are a series of one concession after the other to the Palestinians' demands. There is danger that the concessions will turn into irreversible facts when we reach the stage of the permanent settlement talks."

The Third Way's proposal is based, among other principles, on security, the integrity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the separation of Israeli and Palestinian populations as much as possible. Qahalani stressed that the plan is in keeping with Labor's platform and can bridge the differences between the right and left.

The map of territorial continuity proposed by the movement will require some 9,000 settlers — some 7% of the Jewish population in Judaea and Samaria — to move to the Israeli side, or stay under Palestinian sovereignty.

Lobotzky, a settler from Efrat, said the movement denounces unequivocally the right-wing rabbis' ruling that soldiers must disobey orders to vacate Jewish settlements. "The ruling is obviously political and can result in grave consequences. It must be completely condemned," he said.

Qahalani said the Third Way "does not negate a Palestinian state. The question is, how one defines a state. If the Palestinian area is demilitarized it doesn't bother us."

He said Labor's Knesset faction had given him and MKs Ya'aqov Shefi and 'Imanu'el Zismann freedom of the vote on reinforcing the Golan Law, due to be raised in the Knesset Wednesday, unless the vote is declared by the opposition a no-confidence motion. He estimated that the bill would be approved by a large majority.

Qahalani said that if he is expelled from Labor after voting against it on the Golan Law, and if the Third Way does not run as a party to the Knesset elections, he would retire from political life. He noted that if the government accepts the Third Way's plan, he would support it and remain a member of the Labor Party.

Rabin Promises Territorial Contiguity With Tomb

TA2607103895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Menahem Rahat, and Shlomo Zezana]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have decided to pay greater attention to the need for a dialogue between the government and opponents of the peace process, particularly religious circles.

Rabin and Peres decided to soften the opposition of religious circles to the government's policy. Among other things, they believe radical circles among the settlers must be "isolated" by means of a consistent and open dialogue with representatives of the settlers and the religious parties.

Rabin and Peres met yesterday with a delegation of the National Religious Party [NRP], SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Degel Hatora to discuss the issue of the holy sites in Judaea and Samaria. Rabin promised them that territorial contiguity under full Israeli control would be maintained between Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood and Rachel's Tomb. The religious Knesset members [MK], who asserted that the meeting in no way legitimizes the negotiations with the Palestinians, expressed their satisfaction with the promise.

It was decided in the meeting to set up a team of three MK's representing the religious parties which will serve as an advisory body to the prime minister on the holy sites in the territories. The team will note down all the holy sites and rate them according to their religious importance. The MK's told Rabin and Peres that there are 22 holy sites in Judaea and Samaria, three of which enjoy special status: The Cave of the Patriarchs, Rachel's Tomb, and Joseph's Tomb.

MK Arye Der'i of SHAS told Rabin and Peres that territorial contiguity between Jerusalem and Rachel's Tomb was necessary because thousands of Jews visit the site day and night. Der'i said: "I myself go to Rachel's Tomb every Thursday at 0200 to pray."

MK Hanan Porat of the NRP, who brought with him a huge aerial photograph of the area, argued that between Gilo and Rachel's Tomb lie 500 dunams of Arab-owned agricultural land which he proposed to expropriate. Rabin promised that in any event a safe lateral road would be paved from Gilo to Rachel's Tomb which would be under Israeli control and responsibility.

The religious MK's got the impression that Rabin and Peres do not see eye to eye on the issues raised in the meeting. According to them, Rabin showed willingness to find solutions, while Peres "sent a message along the lines of: 'You should be thankful for what you have and stopping coming up with additional demands.'"

In addition to Rabin and Peres, the meeting was attended by Minister Moshe Shahal, MK's Ra'anan Kohen and Ori Or, and Major General Dani Yatom. Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit was hurt because he was not invited to the meeting. Sources in the Prime

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Minister's Office said last night: "There was a mistake. There was no intention to hurt him."

Labor's Eli Dayan Assumes Deputy Minister Post

TA2307165195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Eli Dayan, former chairman of the Labor Party parliamentary faction, today took over as deputy foreign minister. Dayan succeeds Yosi Beilin who made a decisive impact on the peace process as deputy to Shim'on Peres and who is now minister of economic planning. [passage omitted]

Moledet Splits; 'Right of Israel' Faction Formed

TA2507083395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new one man Knesset faction, MK [Knesset Member] Sha'ul Gutman's Right of Israel, was born yesterday after the House Committee approved a split in the Moledet faction. MK Yosef Ba-Gad, who was left with party chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi to comprise the remaining two-man Moledet faction, immediately denounced the move, calling it illegal. Ba-Gad charged that Gutman's faction was supported, among others, by two former Kakh activists, lawyer Rahamim Kohen and administrative detainee Yo'el Lerner.

He said he was considering appealing to the High Court of Justice to annul the Knesset committee's decision, on the grounds it was "mere interpretation of the law."

Later Ba-Gad told reporters he plans to run for the next elections on an independent ticket if he does not get his way in Moledet, since he would be entitled to NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1 million in party funding as a former MK.

Ramon: Some Labor Figures Want New Party

TA2607102695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon said yesterday that prominent Labor Party figures "who cannot find their rightful place" in the party have expressed interest in a new party he might form for next year's national elections.

Speaking at a meeting with THE JERUSALEM POST's editors and senior staff, Ramon said "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is Labor's best candidate for prime minister, and stands the best chances against (Likud leader) Binyamin Netanyahu."

Ramon said he would not run for prime minister in 1996 if Rabin does, but noted he has not yet decided whether to run in the Labor Party primary or form his own party.

As a condition to return to Labor's ranks, Ramon wants Knesset slots reserved for his colleagues MK's [Knesset member] Amir Peretz and Shmu'el Avital.

Ramon also said that by the end of the year, when the Histadrut is scheduled to move its headquarters to Jerusalem, he will have reduced the number of Histadrut workers to less than a third of what it was — some 4,000 — when he entered office last May.

He added that contrary to expectations, no trade union has left the Histadrut and in fact the Histadrut has more active members in Tel Aviv today — some 131,000 — than when Qupat Holim [sick fund] members were considered Histadrut members. Tel Aviv's labor council this month reported the collection of NIS [new Israeli shekel] 3.6 million in membership fees, compared with NIS 3.2m. in Jerusalem and NIS 2.3m. in Haifa.

In another matter, the head of the Palestinian trade unions, Shahir Sa'd, yesterday denounced the terrorist explosion in Ramat Gan. In a telegram to Ramon, Sa'd noted that such an attack does not serve the peace process and damages the relations between the two nations. He asked Ramon to convey his condolences to the bereaved families.

Argentina's Di Tella Vows To Find Bombers

TA2607101995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Thomas O'Dwyer; names of suspects extradited by Paraguay as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Argentina's foreign minister said yesterday that his country is absolutely determined to find those responsible for the bombing of Israeli and Jewish targets in Buenos Aires.

Guido Di Tella told THE JERUSALEM POST that two Lebanese in a group of six men and one woman extradited from Paraguay to Argentina on Monday are "definitely more suspect" than the others. He declined to elaborate.

No one has been convicted for the March 17, 1992, bombing of the Israeli Embassy, in which 29 people died and 225 people were injured, or for the attack a year ago on the Argentine Israel Mutual Aid Association (AMIA), which killed 86 people and injured 120. One

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man, Carlos Telledin, has been charged with selling the car used to bomb the AMIA building.

Di Tella vehemently rejected criticism of the investigation, such as that made last week by Argentine journalist Sergio Kiernan, in a report for the American Jewish Committee. Kierman charged a lack of official willpower, police incompetence and anti-Semitism, and said the embassy bombing investigation was all but closed and "gathering dust in some drawer."

"We consider it of the greatest importance to find those responsible," Di Tella said. "It is important for our credibility, for showing we are serious and for the deterrence of terrorism."

Di Tella said "the worst wrong accusation" was that leveled by some American Jewish leaders who alleged a high-level official cover-up, or even the involvement of some officials in the attack.

The suspects Paraguay extradited were named as Mohammad Hasan al-Alayan, Johnny Moraes Baalbay, Luis Alberto Nader, Sergio Salem and Fadil Abdul Karim — all of Lebanese extraction — and Brazilians Roberto Ribeiro Ruiz and Valdirene Vieira. [passage omitted]

Rabin Meets Indian Opposition Party Leader

TA2607112795 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 25 Jul 95

[Communicated by 'Aliza Goren, the prime minister's media adviser]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today, Tuesday, 25.7.95, met with Shri Lal Krishna Advani, the chairman of the Indian opposition party, B.J.P. [Indian People's Party].

During the meeting, Mr. Advani condemned yesterday's terrorist attack in Ramat Gan, sent condolences to the families of the murdered, and wished a speedy recovery to those wounded. He remarked that his land also suffers from terrorism, and reminded his host of the assassination of Rajiv Ghandi.

Mr. Advani stressed the dangers of Islamic extremism's growth and expressed a special interest in the physical infrastructure and organizational structure of the extremist groups in the territories.

Prime Minister Rabin and the Indian opposition leader praised relations between their two countries, expressing satisfaction in the pace of progress in relations, especially in the field of agriculture. The two stressed the importance of mutual visits for both countries.

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Editorials: Bomb Helps Israel, Hurts Palestinians

Attack Serves 'Israeli Solution'

JN2607115895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 22

["Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Policy Without Calculations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one can help noticing the correlation between the timing of the Tel Aviv explosion and the target date for reaching an agreement on the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule area in the West Bank.

Similarly, no one can ignore the significance of the fierce right-wing opposition to the current negotiations, to any expansion of the self-rule area, or to the Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns and villages.

It is most unfortunate and surprising that the enthusiasm of the young man who carried out the operation and sacrificed himself should be put to serving the cause of the Israeli opposition. In the final analysis, such an incident will do no more than distort the Palestinian image, aggravate the suffering of those under the occupation, blindly and recklessly muddle up all political papers in a manner that would solely serve the interests of Israeli extremists. The incident will also result in confusing all national or pan-Arab calculations the Palestinian negotiators may have in mind as they fight a wearisome battle to extract their peoples' rights from the hands of the occupiers.

What some people did not realize until now, is that temporary solutions like the civilian bus explosion incident are the best gift to offer the Israeli extremists as well as to the hardliners in Rabin's government, including the head of that government himself.

On the other hand, rejectionists gain nothing but the worst of epithets, while everything on the ground turns into the interest of the Israelis to the exclusion of all others. Moreover, it is not an act of patriotism on the part of the rejectionists to close all doors and waste opportunities to restore their people's national identity on their land.

Yet what can we do if some people still think that an inadequate national solution should be sacrificed in favor of a full Israeli solution, that opposing the Palestinian authority is a national duty, even if this leads to the perpetuation of the presence of the occupation army and authority, and even if it leads to Israeli public opinion uniting under the leadership of the ultra extremist party. Are these the minimal Palestinian rights?

How distastefully ironic that the killing of a few Israeli civilians should be deemed more important than the withdrawal of the occupation forces. Equally ironic is the slogan that the fall of the Oslo agreement must have priority over a gradual removal of the Israeli presence from the occupied territories.

Bombing Benefits 'Israeli Right'

JN2507113895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jul 95 pp 23, 28

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "The Meeting of Adversaries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regardless of the various opinions about the usefulness of suicidal operations at this new stage in the Middle East conflict, it is quite obvious and certain that the Ramat Gan operation near Tel Aviv yesterday morning will not have the impact its executors hoped it would have on negotiations. These negotiations, which started in Zikhron Ya'aqov near Haifa and were later transferred to the Lot Hotel on the western side of the Dead Sea, are aimed at completing the implementation of the Oslo agreements.

The opinion that rises to the level of certainty is that those who executed the operation must have timed it very accurately. The Israeli Government was scheduled to hold a special session yesterday to thoroughly review the negotiations and to examine the thorny issues, headed by the water and Hebron issues. Despite all the obstacles, the new agreements were expected to be initially signed in Cairo by the end of this month, with a formal signing at a grand ceremony at the White House in Washington on 7 August.

Therefore, the idea was to stop these negotiations at their peak. Perhaps what proves that two adversaries can sometimes meet is the fact that the Israeli right wing warmly welcomed this operation, despite the tears it shed. It immediately staged demonstrations to pressure Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin into withdrawing from the negotiations and into agreeing to conditions which, once rejected by Palestinian negotiators, will culminate in stopping the negotiations.

Some people may consider the overwhelming joy expressed by Jewish extremists at every suicidal operation an exaggeration and an attempt to distort facts. However, these people will change their mind once they find out that the term "holocaust," which refers to the massacre of Jews in Germany, means "sacrifice to the Lord," and that the teachings observed by the Jewish extremists, who consider themselves religious, condone the shedding of the blood of the followers of their own religion in order to achieve the goals in which they believe.

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Thus, contrary to what we think, Jewish extremists—who consider the peace process a big blow to the very essence of their theological ideology and their political strategy—believe that the Jewish blood shed in such operations is a sacrifice to the Lord. So long as they continue to believe that, these operations will destroy the peace process, prevent the Israeli Army from withdrawing from the West Bank, and bring them closer to their Torah beliefs.

Yitzhaq Rabin, who has always been willing to please and submit to the Israeli mob, has acted differently this time. He announced that negotiations will continue after a brief suspension in order to bury the victims of the operation. Rabin acted in this manner because he realizes that submitting to the sacrifice-to-the-Lord concept, in which the Jewish extremists believe, will destroy the peace process as seen from his and his party's perspective.

King-Mubarak Summit Reportedly Postponed to Aug

JN2607082095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 26 Jul 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab diplomatic sources said on 25 July that a decision was made to postpone a Jordanian-Egyptian summit between His Majesty King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to 1 August. This summit was originally scheduled for 27 July.

The sources, who requested anonymity, explained that the summit was postponed at Egypt's request because preparations for it have not been completed. The agenda of the summit, which will be held in Alexandria next week, includes completing the discussions on all issues of mutual interest. These issues were discussed in detail by the two Arab leaders at the recent summit in Egypt.

The agenda is also expected to include discussions on recent developments in the peace talks, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The Jordanian and Egyptian sides will reemphasize the importance of making progress on this track by implementing the second phase of the self-rule agreement.

Opposition To Protest Debate on Israel Boycott

JN2607090595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Sa'eda Kilani, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Islamist deputies and opposition parties intend to stage a sit-in today in front of the Lower House of Parliament to protest the House's discussion of a draft law that ends the economic boycott of Israel. The 16 Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies are also considering boycotting the Wednesday session because they say the session would end up with the endorsement "of a very dangerous law."

"What is being done is wrong. It means we are giving up our land and our country," said IAF deputy Hammam Sa'id. "We are against the law in principle and we are not willing to take part in the discussions." Dr. Sa'id said the front was studying its options of whether to boycott the session or not since participation in the discussions over the 1995 draft that ends economic boycott of Israel "are incompatible with our principles."

"We have presented our objection to the law in a written memorandum. Engaging in the House's discussions is futile... anyway, the majority (needed to endorse the law) is there," he added.

Opposition deputies at parliament could only manage 21 votes against 46 votes in favour of referring the draft law to the joint financial and judiciary committee for discussions at the start of the House current extraordinary session in June.

The draft, which has been amended by the 34-member joint committee last week, allows land sale for foreigners but under strict conditions. The amendments condition land sale to foreigners with reciprocal treatment. Article six of the draft stipulates that ownership of Jordanian land is permissible for foreigners if they have laws that allow land sale to Jordanians.

Some centrist, leftist and Islamist deputies who opposed the draft argued, when the House referred the draft to the joint committees, that the Israeli government owns 93 per cent of the land in the Jewish state and bans the sale of private land to foreigners. They said that the Israeli real estate market is closed to all foreigners and Jordanian land should not be sold to them accordingly.

The joint committee, which met last Monday, introduced several amendments including making land sale conditioned to a cabinet approval. The amendments also included a clause banning Jordanians who own land in the West bank and Jerusalem from selling to Israelis.

"The amendments introduced are superficial." said Dr. Sa'id. "Conditioning land sale to Israel with reciprocal treatment is invalid since Israeli laws allow land sale to foreigners though minimum. And giving the authority to the government to have the final decision in these issues is also rejected. It should be the law and not the government that has the final say."

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If the draft was approved, three laws that ban dealings with Israel are eliminated. These are: a 1973 law that bans land sale to Israel a 1958 law that boycotts Israel and a 1953 law that bans trade with Israel.

Eleven opposition parties also announced they will state a sit-in in front of parliament this morning.

Al-Kabariti on Relations With Israel, Gulf States

NC2607055995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has described his country's relations with Israel as normal for now. He pointed out that tomorrow the Jordanian Parliament will discuss the draft law on lifting the boycott of Israel.

In an interview with tomorrow's issue of AL-AHRAM, al-Kabariti said he expects this draft law to be approved; then popular and economic relations will follow.

The Jordanian foreign minister expressed his hope that the benefits of peace will reflect positively on everyone, particularly the other peace tracks. Jordan wants a just and comprehensive peace to be established on the other tracks.

The Jordanian foreign minister said Jordanian-Gulf relations are improving after the tension following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He revealed that there are continuous contacts between him and the Kuwaiti foreign minister. He confirmed that his country is serious about normalizing relations with Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti clarified that he always tells the brothers in Kuwait of the true Jordanian stance, which calls for resolving every conflict according to international legitimacy. Jordan also rejects the use of force in any conflict.

The Jordanian foreign minister said there is a joint desire to remove all the obstacles before restoring the special and distinguished relations between Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

He said that Jordanian-Saudi economic relations were never broken off, even during the darkest times, and that, through the current contacts, Jordan wants to strengthen these relations.

Government Rebuked for Allowing Rabin on Telethon

JN2507130595 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 25-31 Jul p 4

["Jordanian Topics" column by Samih al-Ma'ayitah—"The Government Spoiled the Occasion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday was not only a day of collecting contributions for our brothers, the Bosnian Muslims, who are under Serb attack, but was also a clear indication of the deep Arab and Islamic affiliation of our people who have not abandoned their Islamic nation, religion, and faith. Issues on that day could have proceeded on a positive path had the government or some decisionmakers not succumbed to their habits, spoiled our elation, and tarnished our links with ourselves and our nation.

Rabin, the terrorist and criminal, telephoned Jordanian television, but not to give any contribution—the Jew is characterized by stinginess and aggression. Indeed, the television anchorwoman embarrassed him and, after hesitating, he contributed $3,000. I am certain that he will not pay the money unless some generous official gives it to him to hide his shame.

We do not care if he pays or if he does not pay but we marvel at the lack of intelligence of the official who decided to broadcast terrorist Rabin's conversation on Jordanian television on a day on which the Jordanian people stand by a fraternal people exposed to aggression and a war of annihilation, which is on a much smaller scale than the one our Palestinian Arab Muslim people have been facing for the past 70 years at the hands of Rabin, his fathers, and his occupying sons.

No matter how warm and cordial Rabin's relationship with the decisionmakers might be, they have no right to impose this relationship on us and spoil our elation on this blessed day. Let them meet Rabin day and night, but they should not impose on our people the disinformation that this criminal has disseminated through Jordanian television.

Decisionmakers may be convinced that Rabin is a kind-hearted, innocent lamb, but our people will not forget the crimes that continue to be perpetrated on Palestinian soil. Rabin, the kindhearted, continues to imprison thousands of Palestinian women. He has been detaining Ahmad Yasin [Hamas leader], the paralyzed old man, for several years. He has no mercy on this old man whose body is now inactive except for his heart, mind, and tongue.

Rabin the kindhearted continues to kill the southern Lebanese people, and mercilessly destroys their homes.

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Our wise government was not satisfied with the above. News reports say that a Jordanian-Israeli agreement has been reached to coordinate dispatching financial and material assistance to the Bosnia Muslims. Can our government not send assistance on its own, without coordination with the Zionist entity? How will this coordination benefit us? Do our pilots not know the road to Bosnia? Will the Bosnian government not receive us unless we coordinate with Israel?

The executive authority's action of thrusting the Zionist enemy on all issues and imposing it on us is a repulsive action, engendering anger and rejection by the people. The authorities would have done better had they respected people's sentiments and positions. Let them do what they like with the Zionist enemy, both covertly and overtly. Nothing can surprise us any longer.

TV Reports Arrival of Relief Mission in Croatia

JN2507190695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian and Israeli relief planes within the joint Jordanian-Israeli mission arrived at Split Airport in the Republic of Croatia this afternoon. This mission led by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, who is accompanied by a medical team, is to aid the Muslim people of Bosnia under Serb aggression. The Jordanian and Israeli relief planes — which carried his highness and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid as Israel's representative — arrived at the airport simultaneously. Their shipments of medical and food aid were unloaded immediately to be carried by land to the Bosnian city of Tuzla, which is giving refuge to thousands of Bosnian refugees. Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbegovic and a number of senior Croatian officials were on hand to receive them at Split Airport.

During a joint news conference at the airport, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, said that this joint Jordanian-Israeli humanitarian mission, which comes one year after signing the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel, carries a message of peace from the Middle East to the entire world to emphasize the humanitarian dimension of Jordan's support for relentless efforts to find regional and international cooperation to serve needy people. [Begin recording] [Prince Hasan, in English] It was on Friday that a national fund-raising drive and appeal directed by His Majesty King Husayn invited the participation of all Jordanians of all walks of life of all ages. Men, women, and children expressed their solidarity with the plight of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and I want to say very clearly that the message that we hope can be understood and carried by the world press is the message of peace from the Middle East to the world. [passage omitted] [end recording]

King on Bosnia Mission, Planned Evacuations

JN2507123095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur bade farewell to Crown Prince Hasan, who left Amman this morning, accompanied by a Jordanian medical aid team, to Bosnia-Herzegovina on board a Jordanian plane carrying medical and humanitarian aid material. This is the first trip of a joint Jordanian-Israeli relief mission to help the Bosnian people. It is also part of the Jordanian ceaseless effort in the relief campaign.

His Majesty King Husayn gave statements to journalist prior to the plane's departure. He said:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I think that it has one meaning only; that is, our concern about the tragedy facing our kinsfolk and brothers in that afflicted part of the world. My brother's travel today reflects the feelings of all Jordanian people, who expressed these feelings on an unforgettable day, last Friday [21 July].

This is not the first plane. Other planes carrying aid have left for Bosnia in the past. However, today also marks the anniversary of the Washington Declaration. Therefore, and to be fair, I must say that the Israeli prime minister was among the first people to respond favorably to me regarding the situation in Bosnia and the needs of the people there, given that our peoples have also faced repression, whether in Andalusia in the past, in Europe, the world, or here in this region. So he responded in a humanitarian way. Consequently, the idea emerged that we remember this day, or this anniversary, with a joint mission. This plane will, God willing, take off with my brother and his delegation — medical personnel and specialists — on board. Simultaneously, another plane will take off from Israel and both planes will arrive there at the same time.

We hope this action will influence the world, especially since it gives the message that no differences should exist when one is called upon to fulfill a humanitarian duty and that we promise a just, honorable, and lasting peace in this region. We promise a comprehensive peace, which we hope will be achieved soon despite the occasional attempts by some people to abort or obstruct the process through certain unacceptable and irrational acts. Thank God for what has been achieved thus far.

If proper arrangements are made, they will bring back with them some wounded people, including children. The Israeli plane will also take some people back to

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Israeli hospitals. But we do not know if these people have been prepared to make the trip or not. If the need arises for further trips, they will continue. What this big plane is carrying is only a small part of what we will continue to send, God willing, to our kinsfolk and to the needy people there.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Majesty: In your contacts with Arab and Muslim leaders, have you arrived at a certain mechanism to alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people and stop...?

[Husayn, interrupting] Sir, I have sent four messages, expressing my feelings, concerns, and worries, to the Turkish president and to the Pakistani president, and on the Arab level, I sent messages to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, the current chairman of the Arab summit, and to President Husni Mubarak. Those are the leaders of countries that are members of the contact group, which is charged with contacting the rest of world about this problem and tragedy. We hope that the efforts of everyone will be fruitful. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Visiting Ukranian Official Begins Economic Talks

JN2607094395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—Visiting Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Constantine Grishenko Tuesday [25 July] opened talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on economic, political and cultural relations between Ukraine and Jordan.

Acting Ministry Deputy Secretary General Ibrahim Naghawi, who led the Jordanian side to the talks, said that issues of common concern had been covered, including the situation in Bosnia where Ukraine has two army units serving with the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

The two sides are in agreement on the urgent need to find an acceptable solution to end the conflict, Mr. Grishenko said.

They also reviewed preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held here in October and the opportunities for investments in the Middle East region in the new era of peace.

A ministry statement said that the two sides will finalise their discussions Wednesday after the Ukraine delegation meets with representatives of the private sector to discuss economic matters.

Mr. Grishenko, who arrived with his delegation Monday, had earlier met with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayil Surur to discuss parliamentary relations between Ukraine and Jordan.

The Ukrainian official said that his delegation aimed at opening the way for bilateral cooperation in trade and economic fields. Mr. Surur welcomed cooperation with the Ukrainian parliament and briefed the visitors on the executive and legislative authorities within the Jordanian parliamentary system.

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Al-Hariri Discusses Negotiations, 'Resistance'

NC2607075095 London MBC Television in Arabic 1857 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by 'Ali Nun; place and date not given; from the "Talk of the Hour" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nun] Let us discuss the peace process. People say the Lebanese track will only move once a settlement has been reached on the Syrian track. Will this not mean that Lebanon might be alone and vulnerable to Israel once the problem has been solved with Syria?

[Al-Hariri] On the contrary. First, the question in this form is impossible. There is an agreement between us and the Syrians that neither will sign an agreement with Israel before the other. These two tracks are parallel. They reach their end together and stop together. Right now there is emphasis on the Syrian-Israeli track. Why? Let us speak frankly. Syria and Israel have more security problems than Lebanon and Israel. We know our worth. As a state or an army, Lebanon poses no threat to Israel. Israel takes Syria into consideration in the military aspect. It has seriously taken Syria into consideration since it was established. It treats the Syrian military position very seriously. Hence, there are serious security problems between Israel and Syria. They are far bigger than those between Lebanon and Israel. It is true that our front, or the occupied land, is more heated. Still, things are within known limits.

We therefore believe that if Israel decides to withdraw from the Golan Heights and seriously considers Syria's security fears, nothing will prevent serious negotiations between Lebanon and Israel. But I assure you that Syria will not sign an agreement with Israel before Lebanon. Equally, Lebanon will not sign an agreement with Israel before Syria. The two states and the two leaderships are in full accord that neither will leave the other vulnerable to Israel as a result of a unilateral agreement with it. We have always stressed that. Many people used to ask why we did not move quickly toward reaching an agreement with Israel. Our reply was that this could apply to Syria too. If we and Syria raced to conclude an agreement with Israel, only Israel would win.

The best way to settle the issue was to agree with Syria that neither would sign an agreement with Israel before the other. We will sign together. Everything proceeds in coordination according to this basic policy the regimes in Syria and Lebanon have pursued. There are no fears concerning this issue.

[Nun] When do you expect a breakthrough on the Syrian track that would push the Lebanese track forward with negotiations?

[Al-Hariri] This question should be addressed to the Israelis, not us. The ball is in the Israeli court now.

[Nun] Everybody is talking about the legislative elections in Israel and the presidential elections in the United States.

[Al-Hariri] Saying that such foreign events affect our domestic situation or negotiations might be true. But there are basic decisions the Hebrew state must make, if peace is what it wants. In my own view, and I might be wrong, I think Israel has not made a resolute choice concerning its position in the region. If Israel wants to live peacefully in the region, I believe this peace will be near and possible. If Israel wants to control the region and have the upper hand, no Arab will let it do that. I believe Israel has not made up its mind about its options. If it makes up its mind, it will find solutions with Syria, Lebanon, and the rest of the Arabs. But if it keeps hesitating between choosing whether to live in peace or control the region, then the problem lies with Israel, not the Arabs. The Arabs have made their choice and announced their clear-cut and candid policy. They said peace is their strategic choice. Syria chose that option and so did we and the other Arab states. The problem is that the peace Israel seeks is one that will eventually lead to its control of the region. I do not think any Arab state will approve of that.

[Nun] What do you think of the constant Israeli call, in view of the continuous [resistance] attacks in south Lebanon, to control resistance activity as long as negotiations continue?

[Al-Hariri] Do you know what this means? It means that Israel is asking us to help it make its occupation of the south convenient for it. This is unnatural. The Israelis know our position. We conveyed this position to the United States repeatedly. Many delegations visited the region and asked us about this. Our reply was clear and candid: As long as there is occupied land in the south, we cannot prevent the Lebanese people from resisting this occupation. If Israel leaves the south, western al-Biqa', and the rest of the occupied land, there will be no need for resistance. Things would be totally different.

Buwayz Says Peace Must Be Fair, Convincing

NC2507175395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on yesterday's suicide operation in Tel Aviv, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said only a fair, comprehensive, and convincing

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peace can make peace in the Middle East be real and practical, rather than partial, divided, or imposed.

He said: Yesterday's incident reminds us that the rules for peace, which remain deficient because Lebanon and other principals are absent, do not make this peace acceptable, assuring, or entrenched.

Hizballah Source's Statement on Tel Aviv Bombing

NC2607065795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Statement by a Hizballah "source" following the "martyrdom" attack in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The martyrdom operation carried out by a struggler from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the center of the Zionist entity's capital is a resounding event that reformulates the firm principles of the effort of the struggler Palestinian nation and its resistance groups.

This incident provides significant signs for the future. Notable among these is that resistance and jihad will remain the Palestinian people's basic option in confronting occupation and aggression.

Second, the operation emphasizes that the struggler Palestinian nation dissociates itself from the capitulationist option and submissive conduct adopted by Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. This leadership has become a mere security tool in Zionist hands to suppress our people's will to resist. It is a prelude to ending the conflict with Israel and imparting legitimacy to its existence.

Third, the operation's success proves that the Palestinian resistance forces still possess sufficient ability to act and deliver strikes despite the considerable coordination between Zionist agencies and 'Arafat's group.

Resistance fighters can develop new forms of operations that will still reflect the Palestinian people's wish to preserve their pride, freedom, and dignity.

The recent operation exposed the misleading policy used by 'Arafat's agencies to bring ill repute to the Palestinian resistance and portray it as defeatist and irresolute.

The position of the Palestinian resistance is to continue to follow the path of jihad. Pressure will not make it abandon its daring and distinctive operations.

Hizballah congratulates the entire nation and the resisting Palestinian people on the success of the martyrdom operation.

It denounces the repeated treasonous positions adopted by 'Arafat and his police. This treasonous behavior will be met only with contempt and resistance.

Hizballah Chief: No Links With Egyptian Groups

NC2607083095 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has admitted to the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD that Hizballah has relations with struggler Islamic movements in Israel, but not with the Islamic groups operating inside Egypt. He pointed out, however, that this does not mean Hizballah does not recognize the Egyptian groups.

Answering a question, Nasrallah said he could not defend the Islamic movement and the methods it uses, because it is a very broad movement and probably includes small groups that carry out operations, which Nasrallah described as security operations. [sentence as heard]

Nasrallah said he opposes the assassination of Christian clerics and students or the placing of explosives at airports.

He denied the reports that armed men from other Arab countries are being trained by Hizballah to fight Israel. He said that all the fighters in south Lebanon are Lebanese nationals.

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Columnist Decries UN 'Failure' in Bosnia

JN2507204095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 9

["Viewpoint" column by Fu'ad Mardud: "Between the Lesson and the Example"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that Srebrenica and Zepa have fallen, we will ask the usual question we ask after every Serb aggression: Where, how, and when is the next aggression?

The foreign ministers of 15 states ended their London conference the day before yesterday after admitting that the Bihac enclave would be the next target of the Serb militias because intensive military movements by the Serbs of Krajina were detected in neighboring Croatia. As usual, the conferees threatened to take decisive measures if that safe enclave came under Serb aggression, but kept silent over the results of the Serb aggression against Srebrenica and Zepa.

The Serb aggression yesterday against the UN peacekeeping forces killed two French soldiers and a Danish soldier. This is a new evidence of the failure of the international community's policy in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the beginning. This policy seeks a truce with the aggressor and treats both the aggressor and the victim on an equal footing. The UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina have not done anything over the past three years to deter aggression and protect the civilians. Instead, they have shown weakness and have adopted the philosophy of truce first to protect themselves and then dispatch humanitarian aid to the besieged, and second, to enable the Serb aggressors to attack the enclaves, which were called safe havens, whenever they felt the could do so, ignoring the presence of UN soldiers and challenging Western threats to take decisive measures.

This policy has also made these forces, and then the United Nations itself, recognize the results of the Serb aggressions on Bosnian cities and villages. This explains the movement of the UN positions to new lines after each Serb aggression and after the issuance of a series of new hollow threats. Bosnia-Herzegovina has suffered more than any other country in the world. These tragedies included massacres, ethnic cleansing, deliberate killing and destruction, raping, and the violation of all kinds of taboos before the eyes and ears of the UN forces, which have failed to do anything to deter the aggressors. What is even stranger is that the West becomes more hesitant to take a decisive measure every time the Serb aggression becomes fiercer. That hesitation has led to surrender and then to acceptance of the results of the aggression.

We fear that rather than becoming a lesson in today's world, the Bosnian tragedy will become an example that may recur in other areas and in similar forms.

Paper Urges U.S. To Guarantee Success of Talks

JN2507164995 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Jul 95 p 9

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali Buzah: "What Counts Is the Result"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian-Israeli talks will soon be resumed in the U.S. capital, Washington, on the ambassadorial level amid expectations that this will be the last chance to test Israel's intentions toward peace and the extent of the seriousness of its commitment to the requirements of the peace process, whether regarding the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy; full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon; the return to the 4 June lines; the acceptance of the peace-for-land principle; or regarding the relinquishment of the policy of maneuvering, delusion, the wasting of time, blackmail attempts, and concepts and solutions which serve Israel's interests and strategy and entrench the complex of superiority and hegemony over others.

It is natural here to reiterate that the resumption of the talks is not important and is not an end in itself, as the Tel Aviv rulers want them to be. However, what counts is the result and the Israeli side's readiness to opt for peace, to adopt the means to achieve it based on equality [musawah] and balance [tawazun], to recognize Arab rights and territories, and to return them in full to their owners.

The whole world knows that the Israeli negotiator has not yet made a final decision toward this issue. Despite all attempts to conceal its stand and propaganda and political attempts to peddle this stand, the Israeli negotiator is still unable to prove its credibility. Its stands are still negative and very vague and characterized by delusion, contradiction, procrastination, and evasion. He seizes opportunities to completely wash its hands of the peace process and to pounce on it. In fact, we can say that successive developments since the Madrid conference have indisputably proved that the Israeli stand and performance lean toward maintaining the policy of aggression, occupation, tension, and categorical rejection of all peace concepts, pillars, and conditions.

We do not come up with anything new if we say that Israel's rulers and politicians from the Likud and Labor parties have failed, through all the previous rounds of talks, to prove their credibility and commitment to the peace objective. This also applies to the Oslo agreements which they have made, designed, and tailored

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their clauses in a way which serves their own ambitions and aspirations. They have given a flagrant example of estrangement, violated their commitments, and broken their promises. This is their nature on the other tracks. They futilely want to apply this to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and to impose their concept of peace, and not that of the international legitimacy which Syria has accepted and expressed commitment to achieve it. Neither Rabin nor anyone else were able to express a desire or readiness to pay its price.

We realize that during the two ambassadors' talks, the Israeli negotiator will not relinquish his indecision, time-wasting, intransigence, and attempts to fabricate crises and create difficulties for the peace process. Moreover, he will not abandon the mentality of searching for gains and concessions. Neither will he liberate himself of electoral considerations, which they try to exploit and use as a card of pressure and compromise to make Syria accept the Israeli concept of peace at any price, something which Syria rejects strongly.

It is important and necessary to reiterate that Syria, which has given one chance after another to guarantee the continuation of the political process and given more time to the U.S. Administration to fulfill its pledges and commitments to play the role of the full partner and honest broker and render its initiative a success out of its commitment to a just and comprehensive peace, does not care about any solution which does not achieve a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon or guarantee equal and balanced [mutasawiyah wa mutawazinah] security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June lines.

The United States should deal with Israel in a way which guarantees the success of the Washington meeting in order to make it a true springboard on the long road of peace, not another station for the Israeli mockery.

Radio: Israelis Attempt To 'Consecrate Occupation'

JN2507150995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: No one can cast doubt on Syria's position and sincerity toward the cause of peace. It has always advocated a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on te resolutions of the international legitimacy and the UN principles and charters. The peace process was launched following Syria's acceptance of the U.S. initiative. Everybody knows that had it not been for Syria, the Madrid conference would not have been convened in the first place. Israel was a strong opponent of this conference. It placed innumerable obstacles in front of U.S. efforts. Syria has exhibited great patience during the Washington talks. The main preoccupation of the Israeli Government was squandering the opportunities for making peace. Giving support to Syria's patience was the fact that the U.S. assurances were crystal clear: Exchanging land for peace; a just and comprehensive peace in the region; Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, including all occupied territories as well as the Golan and Jerusalem.

We do not want to review here the obstacles mounted by Israel to the success of talks, for the list is long. We do not want to bring into mind Israel's illusive approach, for it has become well-known to all. In spite of this, Syria went on in its efforts to secure the success of the peace talks, which are held under the U.S. sponsorship, based on the fact that the United States is a sponsor and a major partner in the peace process. Syria has more than once responded to U.S. efforts with the aim of making progress on the Syrian track followed by progress on the Lebanese tracks.

Syria has dispatched its army chief of staff to Washington to discuss security arrangements. The initial military talks failed when Ehud Baraq, former chief of staff of the Israeli army, set his impossible conditions which violate Syria's sovereignty. The subsequent military talks were held following serious U.S. efforts that led to drawing up general principles on the proposed security arrangements, chief among which is the principle of equitability [takafu'] to which Syria adhered and considered a fundamental condition. Once again Israel resorted to sabotaging these talks through stipulating impossible conditions that seriously violate the principle of equitability [takafu'], Syria's security, and the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan. We think that no world politician is unaware that the Israeli occupation of Arab lands is the core of the Middle East conflict and that Syria stipulates that Israel should fully withdraw from the Golan and return its troops beyond the 4 June 1967 lines as a condition to realize peace. Convinced that peace is the real guarantee to security, Syria has responded to the U.S. effort to discuss even-handed [muta'adilah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements to secure the success of the peace process.

It is clear that Israel wants to distract attention from the basic requirements of the peace process, foremost of which is full withdrawal, to other subsidiary issues related to the process of withdrawal, like security arrangements. What is more serious is that Israel wants

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to employ these arrangements to perpetuate its occupation of a part of the Golan, something which Syria vehemently rejects. No part of the Golan is subject to bargaining. Israel's withdrawal should be full and comprehensive. Occupation is occupation whether it is represented by thousands of Israeli soldiers or just a few. Israel's objective of setting up early-warning ground stations is to consecrate occupation and seriously violate the constants of peace, the foundations of the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace principle.

Syria believes in peace and considers it a strategic option — peace that restores land and rights and guarantees security and dignity for all.

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Bangladesh

Dhaka Calls For Lifting Arms Embargo on Bosnia

BK2407051695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has expressed the hope that the United Nations and the international community will abide by their commitment to take tough action against the Bosnian Serbs. This was stated by the foreign secretary, Farooq Sobhan, while talking to newsmen at the weekly press briefing in Dhaka today. He said stern measures should be taken to resist the illegal aggression of Bosnia.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh wants to strengthen the United Nations and is optimistic that the UN mandate will be implemented so that the UN peacekeepers can protect the Muslim enclaves in Bosnia. He said the illegal arms embargo imposed on Bosnia, infringing its right to self-defense, should be immediately lifted. The foreign secretary said that during the two international conferences on Bosnia held last week, Bangladesh had justified its position on taking tough action against the Bosnian Serbs. He said Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman pressed Bangladesh's views forcefully in this regard while addressing a meeting of the Contact Group and the countries that have sent peacekeeping forces to Bosnia in London as well as the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group meeting held in Geneva.

Government Approves Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant

BK2507054495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has approved the Ruppur nuclear power plant and is taking necessary steps to execute it. This has been stated by the state minister for science and technology, Professor M.A. Mannan, at a function in Dhaka.

He categorically mentioned that the government had ordered the concerned authorities to go ahead to explore the possible source for financial and technical assistance to execute the project. Prof. Mannan said 67 crore taka has been allocated during the current financial year to take up various research and development activities of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

India

Bomb Explodes in Jammu; 12 People Injured

BK2607065295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 12 people were injured, five of them seriously, in a bomb explosion near the busy Shalimar Chowk in Jammu city this morning. According to police, the bomb was planted inside a scooter. The injured were rushed to the local medical college hospital. Further details are awaited.

Paper Views Implications of Jammu Explosion

BK2507065395 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 22 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Explosion in Jammu"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although no organisation has so far claimed the responsibility for the explosion that rocked the Mandi (Commercial centre) in Jammu city's old market, the damage it caused in a very wide area and its massive capacity of explosion remind us of the Bombay Blast.

Considering the selection of the area of explosion and its intensity, the suspicion points its accusing finger towards some Pakistan-trained group of terrorists.

The last two years have witnessed many massive explosions in Jammu. Last year during the 15 August celebrations, an attempt was made even to blast away Governor Krishnarao himself. The common feature of these explosions has been the suspected use of RDX, the latest explosive material. Perhaps the remote control device was used in all of these explosions, and the densely congested area or vehicles were selected to cause maximum damage to life and property. It is clear that these explosions were the outcome of a well-planned conspiracy hatched by a terrorist gang with enough money and explosives, the latest devices, and adequate training to use them. This latest explosion occurred when the terrorists were again raising their ugly head in the Doda region. The kidnapping of the nine members of a marriage party have cleared the mist of confusion quite dramatically. The case of the kidnapping of the five foreign tourists is still unsolved.

These three nefarious events in a row point towards the determined bid of Pakistan and its sponsored terrorists to create such a situation in the coming three months in the state as might prevent the Assembly elections. They apprehend the exposure of their heinous intentions before the people if the elections are held in due time. There are many districts in the valley where the people

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are bent upon staging an open revolt against the tyranny of the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Hizbul Mujahidin.

Under this situation any weakness or undecisiveness displayed by the Government would only make the terrorists more audacious. The Al-Faran has demanded the release of ten to twelve arrested terrorists before releasing the five foreign tourists. What is especially significant in its demand is the fact that most of these terrorists belong to the terrorist group the Harkatul Ansar. Abu Jindal, Sajjad Afghani, Massood Aashari and Nasarullah Langariyal are quite notorious Pakistani terrorists. Abu Jindal was arrested in Charar Sharif itself. All of these are members of the Harkatul Ansar, which is an international terrorists group active in Pakistan.

Until now the government has not accepted any demand of these terrorists. But prior to this, the government always bowed before the terrorists' demands. The process that began with the kidnapping of Rubaiyya Sayeed has continued with the terrorists succeeding in every case to have their dreaded accomplices released through their kidnapping of innocent persons. The government, with the hope of evading the crisis, continued to compromise and acceded to the terrorists' demands. But these compromises invariably produced contrary results and kidnapping was allowed to become an effective means for the terrorists to achieve their objective. So if the government has really forsaken its policy of releasing the terrorists in exchange for the release of hostages, it is definitely a welcome step.

What is especially important point in this case of kidnapping is the United States' inability to put pressure on India to have these foreign terrorists released because two of the hostages include its own citizens. Morever, the United States has never itself entered into any compromise with Iraq or other countries to have its own citizens released. So the criterion that was applied on the United States should also be held valid for India.

Militants Arrested, Killed; No Sign of 5 Tourists

BK2507150995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a major success in the Kashmir valley, security forces arrested 34 militants, while 13 were killed in stepped-up operations against the militants. According to an official spokesman in Srinagar, security forces also recovered a large cache of arms from the militants. These include nine AK assault rifles, two pistols, machine guns, a grenade launcher, 14 grenades, 8 kilograms of explosives, 19 detonators, a night vision device, two wireless sets and other ammunition.

There is still no trace of the five foreign tourists abducted by the militant Al-Faran outfit 22 days ago. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the government's efforts to secure the release of the foreign tourists were on. He, however, did not give details. The spokesman said that two local persons taken hostage by the militants were killed. Their bodies were found from different places in the valley.

Twenty-Six Militants Surrender in Kashmir

BK2507162395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir valley, 26 militants surrendered today before the army authorities at Wakural village, about 40 kilometers from Srinagar. A woman militant was also among them. Over 1,000 civilians attended the surrender ceremony as the militants laid down their weapons.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General Shekatkar, before whom the militants surrendered, said that Army will help in rehabilitating them. They will be provided vocational training by the Army and some of them may even be recruited to the secuirty forces. Talking to mediapersons, the militants said that gun cannot lead them anywhere.

Government Urged To Deal Firmly With Militants

BK2507130295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has called upon the government to firmly deal with militants who had abducted foreign tourists from Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the party general secretary, Mr. Krishan Lal Sharma, emphasized the need to establish peace and restore law and order in the state before holding elections.

Editorial Praises Firm Response to Kidnapping

BK2407080695 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 20 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Hope for the Hostages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Both conclusions could be wrong. The deadline set for freeing the five foreign hostages in exchange for the release of the 21 terrorists expired on 15 July. The terrorist organization that kidnapped the foreign tourists, "Al-Faran," extended the deadline by two days. That expired on Monday. Then the "Al-Faran" threatened that it would kill the hostages any day. Two days have elapsed since this threat, but fortunately no untoward incident has been reported.

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Those who place their faith in the basic virtue of humanity must be praying devotedly, hoping they do not receive any bad news and that the "Al-Faran" terrorists will release the five hostage without injuring them in any way. The Kashmiri terrorists are also holding 18 Indian hostages, 10 of whom belong to a wedding party. As it is not known which terrorist organization kidnapped them, the clamor for their release is not as loud as for the release of the foreign hostages. The kidnapping of foreigners creates more of a furor because the shockwaves rock the world. No such sound or fury is raised against the kidnapping of Kashmiris.

What is significant is the hesitation felt by this barbaric Pakistani organization, the "Al-Faran" — which consists of Pakistani and Afghan terrorists — in not implementing its threats. This may be due to the effect of various appeals to the terrorists made by the United States, European countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and so on along with their severe condemnations of this dastardly act. The dons of the "Harkatul Ansar" in Pakistan and the bosses of the so-called "Al-Faran" terrorist organization are well aware of the consequences of killing foreign hostages. They understand that if they do so then people in many countries that secretly assist Pakistan and the terrorism nurtured by Islamic fundamentalism will turn against them. Among the foreign hostages, two are from England, one from the United States, one from Germany, and one from Norway. Pakistan cannot afford to antagonize these countries. It is because of the pressure exerted by these countries that the Organization of the Islamic Conference and Saudi Arabia have also condemned the kidnappings and demanded the immediate release of the hostages.

Another reason for the terrorists' quandary is the firm refusal of the Indian Government to bow to their threats. The Indian Government is not only taking direct action to release the hostages but also maintaining regular contact with diplomats from the concerned countries to pressure the terrorists and force them to release the hostages. Of the 21 terrorists whose release the Al- Faran is demanding, three are so-called "area commanders" of the "Harkatul Ansar," a Pakistan-based terrorist organization. If the the "Al-Faran," a "Harkatul Ansar" front organization, manages to win the release of these terrorists, it would not only establish a firmer hold in Kashmir but also boost the morale of other terrorists in the valley. The stern stance adopted by the Indian Government seems to have put the "Al-Faran" terrorists in a fix. They may regret kidnapping the foreigners. If they kill the hostages, Pakistan will get a bad name in Europe and America. Consequently, India will be able to tackle Pakistani-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir more effectively because Pakistan will not be receiving any help from Europe and America. The withdrawal of the tacit help these countries provide Pakistan would force it to start direct negotiations with India on the Kashmir issue. In this way, the kidnapping of the foreigners could severely damage Pakistan's designs. If India had not adopted this stern attitude to deal with the terrorists and not worked with Europe and America to tackle the kidnappers — if it had bargained with them alone — the morale of its security forces as well as the Kashmir Administration would have sagged. The countries of Europe and America, which themselves want to stop the growing menace of Islamic fundamentalist terrorism, would not have taken our side. In this sense, India's stern attitude and its willingness to start a dialogue with Pakistan are producing favorable results.

As we said in the beginning, though, both conclusions could be wrong. The "Al-Faran" terrorists could still heinously implement their threat, forcing the Indian Government to bow to their demands. May God forbid this possibility and instead make our conclusions come true. May the hostages be released well and unhurt. We must have such hope and pray for their safe release.

BJP Leader's Visit to Israel Reported

95P50400 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 24 Jul 95

[Communication by Israeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman: "Leader of Opposition of India will Visit Israel"; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the major opposition party of India, Shri Lal Krishna Advani, will tomorrow [Monday], arrive for a five day visit in Israel as a guest of the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Advani is scheduled to meet with the President of Israel, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, and will tour Israel. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] holds 116 of 426 seats in the Indian parliament [as published], and is the second largest party after the Congress [I] party. The party, which won a number of last year's provincial elections in India, has traditionally been known as a supporter of Israel. Israel and India established [full] diplomatic relations in January of 1992, and since that time, have have acted to establish and deepen relations between them in every sphere. Indian newspapers have been emphasizing that Advani is the highest level Indian official ever to visit Israel, and that the visit demonstrates the good relations between India and Israel. Mr. Advani has previously met with Foreign Minister Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin when they visited India. Over the years, Israel and India have signed agreements concerning tourism, civil aviation, telecommunications, duties, trade, agriculture, and technological and scientific cooperation. In 1994, Israeli exports to India totalled about

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$400 million, an increase of approximately 600 percent over three years. Recent Indian dignitaries to visit Israel include the leaders of seven federal provinces in India, the Agricultural Minister, Tourism Minister, Human Resources Minister, the Foreign Minister, and the Chairman of the Indian parliament.

Iran

Tehran Radio Praises Islamic Stance on Bosnia

NC2607063995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The collusion involving international organizations and the West with the criminal Serb forces in Bosnia finally led to the fall of Zepa, the second safehaven, into the hands of the Serb occupiers; tens of thousands of residents who sought refuge in the surrounding heights are under serious threat. This sorry tragedy, which has shamed civilized man, living in an era of such incidents, and has met extensive reaction in the world of Islam, both on the official and on the popular levels.

In the Bosnian crisis the West has used the pretext that the United Nations is there to safeguard the safehavens, and has thus prevented the world of Islam from extending assistance to their brother Muslims. But now that the collusion between the West and the Serb criminals has become clearer, silence over such serial crimes cannot be tolerated by any honorable Muslim.

The statement by the Islamic Contact Group that the Security Council's arms sanctions on Bosnia are invalid, followed by the decision by some Islamic countries to send arms to the Muslim Bosnian Government to enable the Bosnian people to legitimately defend themselves against the crimes by the Serb aggressors, constitute one of the most significant official reactions by the world of Islam to the tragedies in Bosnia. Although this political decision is valuable, it will become more so once it is put into action.

Spontaneous popular movements throughout the world of Islam, such as the gathering of aid for their brothers in Bosnia, or demonstrations condemning the crimes that are being perpetrated in Bosnia with the complete collusion of the United Nations and the West, show that the Bosnian crisis has brought official and popular outlooks in the Islamic countries closer and has also helped Islamic nations worldwide to focus on the same course.

This unity of thinking emerging in the world of Islam under specific conditions now places a new duty in front of forerunner Islamic countries, most notably our country, in extending further support to the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia. The priority is to mobilize official and popular reaction in the world of Islam against the tragedies in Bosnia, such that this reaction can change what is happening there. There should be no delay.

Papers Cite Outcome of London Conference on Bosnia

LD2307140595 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA— Two Tehran-based morning dailies on Sunday commented on the outcomes of London conference on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The conference was attended by the defense and foreign ministers of the Western Contact Group and the secretary general of the United Nations and mediator of the European Union as well.

The TEHRAN TIMES daily quoted the German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel as saying after the eight-hour session that there had been a "wide chasm between the attitudes taken by the world powers towards the Bosnian issue" and that the London conference did not yield a full accord. Considering the discord among the conference attendants, it was natural for the session to fail to arrive at a clear-cut decision on Bosnia, it stressed.

Criticizing the British Prime Minister John Major for calling a meeting for which he had no new idea to put forward, the paper argued that doubts were raised concerning the "true intentions" of Britain. "From what has occured so far, it seems that dismal fate has been sealed for the Bosnian Muslims: within six months from now the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia will be complete," said the daily.

Noting that London has sought to achieve three objectives by holding the conference, the paper added, in the first place, following the policy of dragging its feet on the Bosnian issue, "Britain aims to buy time for further crimes by the Serbs." In the second place, wrote the editorial, "Britain tries to absolve itself from involvement in effecting the gloomy fate of the Bosnian Muslims. Removing the former British mediator, David Owen, from the scene of negotiations on Bosnia can also be seen in a new light now. Although it was done under the pretext of resignation or ending of his assignment, it had been intended to conceal the treacherous role of Britain in creating the present predicament for Bosnian Muslims."

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"indeed, the London conference was held so that the words of Britain's Jewish foreign secretary would be recorded in world history that Britain has done its best to find a peaceful solution to the Bosnian crisis," said the paper.

It stated that the third objective of the West in general and Britain in particular, as stated by the Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic on Friday is that the London conference of Western powers effectively gives the breakaway Serbs a green light to continue attacking any place but Gorazde," concluded the paper.

Meanwhile, IRAN NEWS, another English language daily, referring to the decision made in London on launching air strikes against the Serbs if they attack Gorazde, said the recent decision taken by the Western Contact Group and NATO "indicates their approval of the status quo in Bosnia-Herzegovina." In other words, added the daily in its editorial, they intended to maintain this status quo until the Serbs attack Gorazde.

Noting that the Bosnian people were able to restore their rights and retrieve their homeland without foreign assistance, the daily stressed "the only thing they need is the lifting of the arms embargo which has left them unable to defend themselves."

It further criticized the decision of London conference and said the truth of the matter was that the decision taken by Western countries affirmed and legitimized the Serbian conquest of Srebrenica, Zepa and other Bosnian cities, "since the West's procrastination in condemning these atrocities emboldens the Serbs to commit more crimes."

"Another proof of complicity of Western countries with the Serbs is that NATO has promised to launch an air attack against the Serbs rather than dispatch ground forces," IRAN NEWS said.

The air force usually paves the way for ground attacks, said the paper, "consequently, the failure to dispatch ground forces to Bosnia indicates that NATO does not really intend to combat Serbian expansionism," it concluded.

Commentary Blames UN, West for Situation in Bosnia

NC2607105795 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Jul 95 p 8

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "If Srebrenica Was an Oil Well!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Serbs' attack on the Muslim-inhabited city of Srebrenica last week and the town's occupation, followed by the massacre of its people and the eviction of thousands of people from their homes was undoubtedly among the world's most important events during the past few days. Although no one doubts the significance of this issue, many people around the world are preplexed that their questions as to why the United Nations and other global and international forums are silent about the Serbs' impudence and crimes remain unanswered.

While the Serbs have occupied the Srebrenica safe haven and are moving to storm the other safe and unsafe enclaves of Muslim Bosnia, the UN and the world's big powers have virtually turned a blind eye to the violation of all international law and regulations and are content to play word games. And while ignoring the fact that the Muslim areas are being occupied one after the other, they have turned their attention to more marginal issues such as the ineffectiveness of NATO's rapid reaction force in confronting the Serbs; NATO's impetuous air raids on two Serb tanks; the brave(!) resistance to the Serbs by the Dutch forces guarding Srebrenica; the need to evacuate the refugees from the area; the need to liberate the UN troops who have been taken hostage, and so on. As if the Serbs are not devouring more and more of the Muslim land before their eyes, they are taking everything so lightly.

The interesting point is that the UN officials and the other countries involved not only do not admit that they are impotent in the face of the Serbs' repeated impudence, but they are also preventing the other countries and international and regional forums, such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference, from doing anything to end the aggression against the Bosnian people. Armed with the arms embargo and their claims of impartiality they try to prevent the crisis from spreading, while not only are they handcuffing these countries and organizations, but also depriving the Bosnian Government and people of any chance to effectively defend themselves against the Serbs. But any just observer can clearly see that the United Nations, with its so-called impartiality, treat the "victim" and the "aggressor" the same, thus freeing the hand of the aggressor to perpetrate all manner of crimes.

But if Srebrenica, like some other regional hotbeds in the world, had oil wells, would it still meet with the silence of the United Nations and the Western powers? Did not the same decisionmakers on the Security Council, using various legal pretexts, assemble armies and military technology in the Persian Gulf in a matter of a few days to defend the oil wells? Did they not send the most advanced military technology to the Persian Gulf from thousands of kilometers away within a few hours? So are military, logistical, and other excuses acceptable in Bosnia today? Do they truly

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lack the ability to defend the rights, international laws and regulations, and lives of the Bosnian people, or even of their so-called peacekeeping(!) forces against the Serbs? What happened to all that hue and cry and all that propaganda about the strength of NATO's rapid reaction force? While the Persian Gulf was thousands of kilometers from the Western military bases, Bosnia lies in the vicinity of NATO bases in Italy, Germany, and so on. How then, can all this silence and negligence be understood unless we accept the fact that the esteemed members of NATO and of the Security Council have no intention whatsoever of defending the Bosnian people, but only of defending what they call their "national interests" and that this dictates that the current status quo be maintained? And their recent overtures prove that this is clearly the case.

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has failed to understand how sensitive the issue of Bosnia and Srebrenica is, so he has left for Africa to express his happiness over Mubarak's safe escape from the assassination attempt against him and to inspect the massacre in Rwanda, even though a year has passed since then. The United States is busy with its phony disputes between Congress and the White House over whether military action in Bosnia is necessary or not. And the representatives of international institutions in Srebrenica, such as the International Red Cross and the UNHCR, are finishing what the Serbs' attacks started in the Muslim areas. That is, as in Gorazde and in other cities that have been attacked by the Serbs, they are cleansing the areas of Muslims. The leaders of these so-called humanitarian institutions are facilitating the second phase of the Serbs' attacks—that is, the ethnic cleansing and the evacuation of Muslims from these areas—on the pretext of delivering medicine and foodstuffs and of evacuating the refugees to safe havens. And in the final phase of the joint operations, the UN secretary general's representative, Mr. Yasushi Akashi himself, will be able to declare the conclusion of operations and to say that "the situation in occupied Srebrenica will not return to what it was." Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader—intoxicated by his aggressions—will also say that "Srebrenica will never become a safe haven and a Muslim-inhabited area again." Thus, the joint operations will end with the Serbian aggression and the silence of the United Nations, with the cooperation of the Westerners and the UN Secretary General. And Butrus-Ghali—once he returns from feasting with Mubarak—may possibly visit parts of Bosnia next year, provided, of course, that this crisis has not been solved by then through other means and with the impartiality(!) of the United Nations.

Fate of Sri Lankan, Bosnian Muslims Compared

LD2407072895 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The ethnic bloodletting would continue in Sri Lanka as long as the foreign interference is not stopped, said the morning daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL here Monday.

Commenting on the current massacre of the Sri Lankan Muslims by the rebels of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the English-language paper compared the Sri Lankan Muslims with their Bosnian brothers and said the fate of the Muslims in Sri Lanka was no better than that of the Bosnian Muslims.

"It is not intended to go into details in respect to the many similarities existing in the two lands, it would suffice to remark that both the Serbs and the Tamil Tigers, so far, have not faced any difficulty in obtaining arms and ammunition for implementing their satanic goals. It is anybody's guess the source of supply of the modern military hardware. The suppliers are in the West," argued the paper.

It added that the government of President Chandrika [Bandaranaike-] Kumaratunga was determined to resolve the crisis. However, regretted the paper, all endeavors of Sri Lankan president for putting an end to the ethnic cleansing in her respective country have not yielded the desired results.

"Political observers believe that she will be unable to accomplish much towards establishing peace in her country as long as the strings that are pulled from abroad are not cut," wrote the paper.

It urged the Iranian media to devote some space to the fate of Sri Lankan Muslims also alongside the concern shown for the Bosnian Muslims.

"After all, the perpetrators of these heinous crimes on Muslims belong to the same flock, be they Serbs, Zionists or Tamil Tigers," concluded the paper.

Croatian Envoy Meets Official, Discusses Bosnia

LD2607093995 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — Croatian ambassador to Iran Osman Muftic here Tuesday appreciated Iran's efforts for organizing a meeting of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), recently held in Geneva.

Muftic met with Foreign Ministry director general for north and central Europe Ebrahim Rahimpur in which he

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announced his country's readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran to remove obstacles in the way of the establishment of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Commenting on a meeting of presidents and senior officials of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, the ambassador briefed the Iranian diplomat on major political and military topics discussed in the gathering. He stressed that the joint statement released by the meeting underlined efforts by Croatia and Bosnia against their common enemy. He further voiced his country's support for the statement released by the Islamic contact group in Geneva particularly with regards to lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia.

Rahimpur also voiced Iran's support for stands jointly taken by Bosnia and Croatia and stated that the Islamic republic will exploit all its potentials to put an end to the Balkan crisis. He announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with both Bosnia and Croatia to prevent Serb attacks on the safe havens.

Japanese Prime Minister Sends Message

LD2507150595 Tehran IRNA in English
1442 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in a written message to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Iran's principled anti-terrorism position and its stance vis-a-vis the regional and international issues.

The message, handed over to Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Ala'ddin Boroujerdi here Tuesday by Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Ohara Tokeshi, called Japan as a traditional friend of Iran and expressed interest in further expansion of Tehran-Tokyo relations.

The message added that Tehran-Tokyo ties have been steadily growing since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Murayama called for continuation of talks and cooperation between Iranian and Japanese officials.

Boroujerdi said the policy of the Islamic Republic government was based on further expansion of bilateral ties and consolidation of friendship between the two states. He underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran considered exchange of views and talks between the two countries' officials as the best way for creating a better understanding and promoting mutual cooperation.

Trade With Japan Increases in Past Year

LD2507203495 Tehran IRNA in English
2009 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, July 25, IRNA — Volume of transactions between Iran and Japan surmounted dlrs. [dollars] 3.7 billion in 1994, with non-oil commodities showing an increase compared to the same amount in 1993.

Over dlrs. 1.758 billion worth of oil derivatives and non-oil goods were exported to and over dlrs. 910.88 million imported from Japan within the period. Based on statistics released by the economic department of the Islamic Republic Embassy in Tokyo, export of pistachio to Japan in 1994 earned Iran over dlrs. 25,281,000, showing a rise of over dlrs. 1,903,000 compared to the same figure the preceding year.

Iran ranks first among pistachio exporters to Japan meeting 82.3 percent of that country's pistachio needs. Next in rank are the U.S. and Italy with 15.2 percent and 1.7 percent. Iran exported over dlrs. 17 million worth of woolen carpets to Japan in 1994, showing an increase of over dlrs. 3.067 million compared to the same figure in 1993. Iran ranks second after China by meeting 10.7 percent of woolen carpet needs of Japan, followed by Pakistan.

China exported over 14.372 billion yens, Iran 3.83 billion and Pakistan 1.253 billion worth of woolen carpets to Japan in 1994. Export of woolen and non-woolen carpets to Japan by China, Pakistan and Iran showed a rise of two million meters, 157,000 meters and 122,000 meters in terms of size in 1994 respectively. Moreover, export of caviar to Japan by Iran reached to dlrs. 20,543,000 in 1994, showing a rise of over dlrs. 3,882,000 compared to the same figure in 1992.

Radio Commentary Views Tel Aviv Bus Attack

LD2507114695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0951 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, once again, an explosion in the suburbs shook the town of Tel Aviv. Seven people were killed and 30 injured. After the explosion, an unidentified person contacted the radio of the Zionist regime by telephone and attributed responsibility for the Tel Aviv explosion to the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, announcing that a Hamas member carried out the bomb explosion, using 20 kg of explosives, against a bus carrying Zionists in a martyrdom-seeking operation.

Yesterday's bomb explosion in Tel Aviv was the third of its kind during the past nine months. In October 1994, Hamas forces carried out a bomb attack against a bus in the suburbs of Tel Aviv in which 22 people were killed and 47 injured. Later, in January 1995, two Hamas members carried out a martyrdom-seeking operation in

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[word indistinct], a suburb of Tel Aviv, in which 21 people were killed and 65 injured.

Each explosion in Tel Aviv shakes the foundations of the process of compromise at the same time as shaking the city itself. Yesterday's explosion, too, occurring as it did as compromise talks were in progress between the PLO and Israel to expand the self-rule area, had an immediate impact on the talks. Postponing the talks, Israel announced: We need to reconsider before negotiating.

Clinton, the President of the United States, expressed anxiety about the negative impact of yesterday's explosion on the process of compromise and called on the Zionists to continue the talks. 'Arafat, for his part, condemned the perpetrators of the bomb attack in Tel Aviv and described it as damaging to the peace process.

Combatant Palestinian groups, opposed to the process of compromise with Israel, have announced that they will do anything to prevent the progress of this process. It seems as if suicide operations and consecutive bomb explosions in the suburbs of Tel Aviv is one of the ways that these groups have chosen to achieve their aim.

In view of the fact that these operations have taken place in the region under the control of the Zionists, they not only reveal the strength of the combatant Palestinian groups but also prevent confrontations among Palestinian forces. By embarking on the process of compromise, Israel has tried to set Palestinians against each other and to turn the war between Israelis and Palestinians into a war of Palestinians against Palestinians. The operations carried out by Palestinian forces outside the self-rule area, which deprive 'Arafat's moderate forces of pretexts for confrontation, prevent clashes among Palestinians.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Sudanese Envoy Meet

LD2407085095 Tehran IRNA in English
0747 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Tehran-Khartoum relations and formation of a joint political commission were discussed in a meeting of Sudanese ambassador to Tehran Qutbi al-Mahdi with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi Sunday [23 July].

During the meeting, the Sudanese envoy submitted Hashemi with an invitation from Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghazi Salah al-Din to visit Sudan.

Russian Minister Inspects Isfahan Steel Plant

LD2507190095 Tehran IRNA in English
1818 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Isfahan, July 25, IRNA — Russian first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, Mikhail Fradkov on Monday [24 July] inspected the Isfahan steel plant. Fradkov hailed the modernization of the plant in the absence of Russian experts.

The huge steel mill was founded in cooperation with the former Soviet Union in the central city of Isfahan before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The Russian official said his visit to Isfahan was aimed at exploring avenues for mutual cooperation in the field of steel industry.

Oil Minister, Russian Businessman Discuss Efforts

LD2407175095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran and Russia will cooperate in the renovation of plant manufacturing oil installations and their use in the oil industries of the two countries.

At a meeting today between Mr. Vagayev, head of the Machine and Import Company of Russia, and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i in Tehran, the possibility of the two countries cooperating in the setting up of a joint oil company in the Caspian Sea and the implementing oil exploration and exchange projects were reviewed.

Availability, Use of Energy Resources Reported

95LA0277A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
20, 22 May 95

[Report by 'Ali Reza Mohammad-'Ali]

[20 May p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The story of $10.5 billion in annual subsidies for energy and the increasing consumption of petroleum products has forced the government to pursue the policy of increasing the price of oil and its products from the beginning of this year.**

The increase in domestic consumption by 140,000 barrels of crude oil per day has affected the potential export volume, and a new model is required in this area.

Now it seems that relying on the increase in prices alone has not created any appreciable effect in demand and has only created inflationary effects in other sectors.

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At the same time, 74 percent of the share of the domestic energy of the country is petroleum products, compared to the 26 percent share from natural gas. Only by changing the percentage of these two products can domestic consumption be reduced to 527,000 barrels instead of more than 1 million barrels. This fact shows well that instead of relying on increasing the price of petroleum products, the government must propagate the policy of using other fuels and alternate energy sources.

Thus, it is natural that instead of scolding domestic consumers regarding the uncontrolled waste in oil energy consumption, we shall pursue new ways to change the energy consumption model with the selection of such undiminishable fuel sources as natural gas and hydroelectricity.

A coordinated government plan with mobilized measures will be able to decrease the problems stemming from the rapid increase in the domestic consumption of oil products.

Excessive waste of fossil fuels, especially oil, is very worrisome.

In the opinion of an economic analyst, excessive reliance on oil energy and the notion that it is undiminishable prevails not only in the minds of the people but in the activities of the officials in this sector.

He says: The Arak refinery, which has now reached operation, and the Bandar 'Abbas refinery, which will soon enter the production circuit, are mainly intended to provide for domestic needs, and their capacities for meeting the oil demands are an example of this trend.

Propagation of the Policy of Using Non-Oil Fuels

The oil exporting countries are among the countries that have had the most rapid growth in the consumption of petroleum products compared to other countries. Dr. Esfahani announces that without the increase in the capacity of these countries, the consumption of petroleum products will reach from the present 15 percent to a capacity of 50 percent in the future, and as a result it is possible that the oil-producing countries will themselves become importers of petroleum products.

He explains that domestic consumption in some of the oil-producing countries, including Iran, has reached one-third of the production, and if this is not controlled, it might exceed the level of the expansion of the planned capacities as well.

Under such conditions, devising a rational government pricing policy is necessary in order to have a tangible effect on modifying demand and decreasing domestic consumption because excessive subsidizing of petroleum products has brought the growth of domestic consumption to even twice the average amount of consumption of other countries on the same level.

Nevertheless, this is not sufficient to control the increase in demand. Rather, relying on new alternate fuel consumption models is important and necessary.

Studies indicate the necessity of changing to using low-cost fuel, such as natural gas and hydroelectric energy, because oil, this strategic and expensive product, is never feasible for widespread domestic consumption compared to other fuels, and the increase in the price of its products, even though logical, will not control the trend in consumption.

Moreover, the effects of the increase in the price of fuel as announced by the Research Division of the Majles, prior to announcing the new rate, will increase the expenditures of the affluent class by 25 percent and the middle and lower classes in the society by 48 percent.

The smallest impact will be on the increase in the price of automobile spare parts and subsequently the increase in fares, which lately is discussed in many circles as well as in the press.

Also, the increase in the energy consumed for commercial purposes will also have its effects on the prices. Lack of supervision has also increased the problems of the middle- and lower-class consumers.

Now, the Iranian consumer uses twice the average of fuel in other countries. The average per capita consumption in recent years in the country was about 1,088 liters, while the ratio has been announced as 550 liters of fuel products in other countries.

Given this situation, is the increase in the price of fuel the only logical way to control consumption?

Why Have the People Been Encouraged Toward Improper Consumption of Energy?

Referring to the importance of alternate fuels, Dr. Arman says: Investment in the alternate fuel sector is insufficient. According to him, the potential of the Karun River alone, without taking into consideration the energy reserves in other dams such as Karkheh, is about 15,000 megawatts of electricity. Such a potential, at the current prices of oil, $16 per barrel, is about $1.7-1.8 billion. He continues: Failure to use alternate fuels, such as natural gas and the energy from hydroelectric dams like the Dez, Karun, Sefidrud, and Aras dams, has made people dependent on oil, and naturally, instead of gaining the revenues from exports, we are obliged to use it domestically. If the expensive refinery investments are used for electrical energy, they would be much more

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effective. An economic analyst says in this regard: The creation of the Arak refinery has cost the country $1.2 billion, which is equal to the expenditures over three years for importing needed drugs. Also, the cost of building this refinery is equal to the foreign currency cost of building Karun Dams 3 and 4, which are able to produce 5,000 megawatts of electricity, and the foreign currency savings of these two dams will be $500 million annually.

He adds: In fact, we have ignored a cheap, safe, hydraulic energy source and built the Arak refinery. Hence, it is natural that the people engage in the high consumption of fuel oil, the grounds of which we are providing subconsciously, and they resort to wasting the roots we have made ourselves.

Statistics show that domestic consumption of oil in the next 16 years will reach 3.4 million barrels per day. If so, projecting the production capability percentage of 3.5 million barrels per day, we will only be able to export 100,000 barrels of oil. Also, regarding the crude oil exports during the 1368-1372 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994] period, figures show that the percentage of exports in these years has regularly declined so that the percentage compared to the plan decreased from 112.4 percent in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to 80.4 percent in 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996].

The Majles Research Center announced that in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], instead of the projected exports of 3.294 million barrels per day, exports reached 2.65 million barrels per day, while the plan to increase production by 1 million barrels per day in 1372 was justified for exports and the creation of foreign currency revenues.

The increase in domestic consumption, on the other hand, has escalated the decrease in exports, such that the plan to increase production should have been 400,000, 637,000, and 1,001,000 barrels of crude oil for export for 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], and 1372, respectively, whereas in these years, the increase in exports of 445,000, 128,000, and 357,000 barrels of oil per day was achieved. Hence, the percentage of increase in exports achieved as a result of this plan in 1370 was 111.5 percent; in 1371, 35.6 percent; and in 1372, 20 percent. This is while the crude oil allocated for domestic consumption compared to the plan increased by 11.2 percent in 1372, or 140,000 barrels per day, and overshadowed the exports of this product. Under such circumstances, how can the increase in demand for domestic consumption be prevented?

Now, if every liter of gasoline costs 37 tumans before it reaches the station, naturally, by increasing its price to 10 rials [R], the government will never be able to control the inappropriate trend of domestic consumption at more than twice the international standard. The excessive increase, also due to the lack of available supervisory leverages, will cause the weakening of the low-income strata in the society and all the people. Hence, it seems that the best way to solve this problem is to invest in the use of alternative fuels, such as natural gas and hydroelectric energy, which we will discuss in detail in future reports.

[22 May p 5]

The priority of oil products in the consumer model of the country, in the opinion of many experts, does not follow a logical trend, and this issue has escalated the increasing growth of consumption. Under such circumstances, the inevitable effects of the increase in the price of this high-use product are imposed on other goods, and forgetting the implementation of supervisory policies will double its inflationary effects.

Now, the consumption of oil compared to other, often cheap, types of energy in the country has priority, and it is said that the level of energy consumption in Iran from 1349 [21 March 1970-20 March 1971] to 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] has almost increased by 10 times and reached the ceiling of $14 billion in 1372, a major part of which is oil energy.

Nevertheless, in order to reform the structure of consumption and decrease the subsidies paid in this sector, the policy of replacing oil with available alternative fuels seems more efficient. Also, a wiser step is to pay more attention to the large volume of underground reserves of natural gas in the country, which in terms of thermal value has been estimated at about one and a half times the crude oil reserves, and its supply cost per energy unit is sufficiently less than the similar petroleum products. Oil is regarded as the most important source of foreign currency revenues, which has a totally strategic position in providing for the energy consumed in the country. Major changes in the price of this product and its byproducts will have definite economic and political effects.

In the recent months, the increase in the price of fuel oil has inflicted numerous serious shocks on the market and, alongside the inflationary course that exists in the society, has caused the increase in the price of many goods and services.

Despite the fact that at the end of last year, the minister of petroleum announced that the effect of the increase in the price of oil products on the price of goods and

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services will be slight, the society has been witnessing significant increases in prices. Even his statement that none of the sectors is allowed to increase the price of its goods and services under the pretext of the increase in the price of oil products did not materialize, and the cost of related services—automobile repairs, spare parts, and the cost of transportation of passengers—increased on all levels.

Because of the lack of supervision over the domestic sector and the weak policies in support of the users of these services, day after day the newspapers of the country, hoping for improvement in the situation, discussed the problems of the increase in the rate of fares, and the people also pointed out new problems.

Esma'il Langrudi says in this connection: Gasoline at 10 tumans is a new problem for the owners of private vehicles and those who pay fares. Many private drivers also blame the 100-percent increase in their fares, which often takes place in an uncontrolled manner as they see fit, on the increase in the price of automobile spare parts and gasoline.

We spoke to a citizen named Gholamreza 'Abbasi, while quarreling about the price of fare. He is traveling between Afsariyyeh and Tehran Pars and says that in recent months he has seen an increase in the price of fares three times, one after another, and unfortunately, officials have not taken any steps on this issue.

Engineer Sadeq Davallu also believes: Under conditions that the market inflicts numerous shocks on the people, the government must pursue the policy of supporting the recipients of services through serious control and supervision.

It seems that the long discussions that existed prior to the increase in the price of fuel and its effects on other goods by the officials were conducted with a relative projection of such conditions, and the issue was even so sensitive under those conditions that the officials announced that the implementation of this policy would be postponed for six months. In practice, this did not occur. Of course prior to it, the officials and policy makers in this sector maintained that among their main reasons for raising the price of fuel was its low prices and subsequent excessive waste in consumption. Hence, some announced: The needed fuel in the country has increased up to about 60 percent of the total oil production, and our per capita fuel consumption is nearly twice that of people in other countries.

Dr. Bahman Arman says to us in this regard: In any case, the 93 billion barrels of oil reserves of the country will be finished some day, and we will somehow convince ourselves to forget about the foreign currency revenues. The importance of this issue is quite clear for the people to understand, but in the opinion of Ms. Ma'sumi, an economic expert, the government must realize that it is not the people alone who are involved in the formation of an incorrect consumer model for oil energy. Rather, the high prices in recent days in the market have escalated only because of the lack of supervisory power. She continues: The high price of fuel logically will not cause such an increase in prices. She explains that the cheap fuel in the country has caused the consumption of 12-14 barrels of crude oil to produce $1,000 in gross domestic product in the country, whereas in industrial countries, they use one or two barrels of crude oil; this is mainly due to the excessive low price. For this reason, everyone in society will logically accept the changes in price, but the unbridled growth of prices taking place under the pretext of the increase in the price of oil products is a major problem, in which the role of officials surpasses the role of the people.

Tomorrow Without Oil

Fossil fuels now provide more than 95 percent of the energy needed in Iran and more than 81 percent of energy consumed in the world. In order to decrease this trend, before the start of this year an untested way was to increase the price of oil products in the country.

With the increase in the price of fuel oil in the country, many experts regarded it a one-way increase in price. In their opinion, merely increasing the price of these products and moving closer to world prices would not reform the structure of domestic consumption and decrease it significantly. They mainly suggest a change in the fuel oil consumption model.

One of them says: "In European countries, in order to decrease fuel consumption, they have set a specific work hour for businesses and closed down the less important businesses at night." He adds: "This has widespread effects on the direct decrease of fuel consumption and decrease in traffic.

"The trend of using fuel oil mainly increases environmental pollution." Another expert, Esma'ili, pointing out that alternative fuels can decrease this trend of pollution, says: "Proper use of the existing energy potential in the country, such as electricity—in which the Karun River, due to its characteristics, is even more important than the Volga—has been ignored."

Regarding the role of primary energies in providing for the needs of the country and its insignificant share in the consumer model compared to other sources of energy, such as geothermal, wind, hydraulic, nuclear, solar, and coal, Dr. Nasir says: Each one of these sources of energy exists in nature in raw form and is a usable

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energy conductor after being collected in a conversion system. These energy conductors are used in various sectors: domestic, commercial, electricity production, transportation, agricultural industries, and other uses.

The increase in the pollution of rivers, lakes, and underground waters, and eventually the increase in the level of carbonic gas, is another issue that results from the excessive use of fossil energies.

Making this statement, Dr. Bahadorinezhad adds that the undiminishable source of solar energy that is quite compatible with the environment can also be studied.

In his article entitled "Solar Energy in Iran and Making a Model Now for Tomorrow," he states: Acquiring solar energy in Iran is noteworthy, and the technology for its use is relatively simple. In fact, all the energy needs of the country can be met from the use of the sun and domestic experts and researchers.

He adds that with the use of solar energy, hydrogen can be produced and exported in the future in place of oil and natural gas. He emphasizes the economic justification for conservation in the consumption of oil energy and the use of solar energy. "Production of work" and hydrogen produced from the sun and exporting the technology for the use of solar energy to Third World counties are among the other results that are pointed out by this expert.

These issues show that numerous sources of energy exist in our country that can replace fuel oil by spending the relative resources and paying proper attention.

Dr. Arman says in this connection: "The recent visit of the president to Khuzestan showed that the government is trying to make use of the total potential of electricity production in the country around Karun and Karkheh." He then announces: The building of these dams will take four to five years, and the electricity produced in these units will be 4,000 megawatts over domestic needs."

He adds: By mobilizing the national forces and the financial resources to complete the natural gas outreach networks in the cities and villages of the country, which have become natural gas users symbolically so far, in three to four years we can have the equivalent of 500,000 barrels of oil per day and decrease the daily consumption up to about one-third. In this case, even the increase in the price of oil products in the country will not have much effect on the expenditures of families because considering cheaper fuel and its being placed in the family consumption model, small and large production and commercial units will not have significant financial expenditures for them.

Referring to the low price of oil fuel in the country, an expert says: We have put a great deal of importance on oil and the increase in the consumption of fuel, and the increase in government costs has forced us to increase its price. Under such conditions, the government is trying to reduce the problems in this sector somewhat by bringing its price closer to the world prices. I ask him to briefly explain these problems, and he responds: The price of a liter of gasoline in Turkey is 307 tumans. In Italy, also, a liter of gasoline is about $1. Hence, we cannot have artificial prices forever.

He adds: "Now oil products are smuggled out of the country, and large amounts of them are used in Arab countries and Turkey and are an aberration of the natural economic system." According to him: "The low price of fuel causes the widespread smuggling of tar, so that now 30 percent of this product is taken to the other side of the country." [sentence as published]

Regarding the abundant and cheap natural gas resources, the same expert says: "Recently it was decided that in accordance with an agreement to export to one of the countries, first 2 billion cubic meters and then, by the year 2002, 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas energy, which is almost the equivalent of the total natural gas that was exported to the Soviet Union prior to the revolution, would be exported. This issue shows that the capability for and practicality of using natural gas exists because Iran is self-sufficient in the area of the production of natural gas pipes and natural gas outreach equipment, and we even have exports in this sector."

He adds: Then, by nationally mobilizing the resources and sources over a short period of time, it is better to decrease the share of fuel oil by bringing natural gas to all cities in the country and moving toward this valuable potential, of which a significant segment is burned without being used and is wasted every day.

It seems that by strengthening such a trend and by relying on oil exports and decreasing domestic consumption, we will be able to somehow decrease the inflationary increases on other goods caused by oil products and put in place an appropriate consumer model in the country. We hope for that day.

Method for Reparations for War Damages Announced

95LA0287C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 11 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Service—The Cabinet announced the method for implementing the payment of war reparations to the people of the war-stricken regions in 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March**

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1996] to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and also the Plan and Budget Organization.

According to a report by the correspondent of the Economic Service of ABRAR, regarding the decision of the special representative of the president in the Office of Reconstruction Affairs of the War-Stricken Regions, based on Note 30 of the 1374 national budget law and Article 4 of the implemental bylaws of the note dated 06/02/1374 [26 April 1995] of the Cabinet, the method for paying damages to the people in the war-stricken regions in 1374, including damages to residential, industrial, service, and production locations; the method for paying agricultural, livestock, and date palm grove damages; the method for paying and the aid for procuring household appliances; and the method of aid for paying damages to the owners of damaged boats were announced for implementation to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Central Headquarters for the Reconstruction of War-Stricken Regions.

With the implementation of these instructions, the previous instructions of the Central Headquarters for Reconstruction will be nullified and the auditors of the reconstruction funds will, on the basis of the new instructions, supervise the method of spending the reconstruction funds and examine and verify the expenditure documents.

Based on the new instructions, the Reconstruction Headquarters of the province will pay for the damages to urban residential units up to 5 million [R] and for damages to rural residential units up to R3 million in one statement. If the level of estimated damages exceeds these amounts, it will pay the difference in a second installment (up to the ceiling determined within the framework of these instructions). Also, the damages on commercial units will be made in one payment.

If the owner of the residential or commercial unit does not wish to reconstruct his unit in the war-stricken region, upon the determination of the local reconstruction official and provided there is a full settlement of the account with the Office of Affairs of the Return and Employment of Refugees, or if the owner lives in one of the refugee complexes and evacuates and submits the residential unit being used or participates in the transfer plan for the residential unit being occupied and submits a written commitment that he will have no further claims in connection with the reconstruction of the replaced unit, whether with regard to receiving loans, expenditures of construction permits, etc., the total estimated damage will be paid in one installment and will be fully removed from the control of the Office of Affairs of the Return and Employment of Refugees.

Damages to urban and rural units that cannot be reconstructed on the previous location due to security, military, technical, or developmental problems shall be paid in one payment.

Also, based on another part of this ratification, the maximum ceiling that can be paid for damages, calculating the subsidies on construction materials in the construction sectors, after expert opinions and estimates of the damages based on the list price of the Plan and Budget Organization, is as follows:

1. urban residential units—a maximum amount of R8.5 million for every independent unit (level or floor of a building), based on the latest list price announced by the Plan and Budget Organization;

2. rural residential units—a maximum of R4.5 million;
3. urban and rural business and service units—a maximum of R2 million for every unit;

4. payment of the committed installments of previous years of hotels and motels, gas stations, public bathhouses, treatment centers, and nongovernment cultural, educational, and athletic centers that have a file (conditional on reconstruction and continuation) in a manner that the maximum payment will not exceed R100 million shall be made upon the verification of the governor general, and if they have not used developmental funds, from the funds for people's damages of the province;

5. religious centers, upon the approval of the Ministry of Religious Endowments—up to a maximum of R10 million;

6. large service units that have had areas under construction that exceed the normal amount of payments for damages (R2 million), including restaurants, dining halls, cafes, bakeries, repair shops, and large warehouses, shall receive R2 million for every 15 square meters, with a maximum ceiling of R20 million, and also in order to purchase and install the destroyed equipment of bakeries, up to the ceiling of R3 million from the funds for people's damages of the province shall be payable;

7. building and production unit (agricultural, livestock, and industrial) facilities—up to a maximum of R6 million for every unit.

Also, regarding agricultural products and fodder:

1. livestock and poultry—a maximum amount equivalent to their normal value

2. orchards and sapling gardens—a maximum amount of the cost of planting and maintenance until such time as they yield a return equivalent to their normal value, and date palm groves, R10,000 per palm tree

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3. agricultural products—a maximum amount equivalent to the cost of production

4. agricultural, animal husbandry, and poultry farming machinery and tools—a maximum amount of cost shall be allotted; for damaged commercial boats also, on the basis of their capacity—from R4 million to R20 million shall be allotted

Billions of Rials Invested in Poultry Farms

95LA0271E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The one day meeting of the National Poultry Industry for the purpose of studying the operations of the previous years and offering guidance and advice by officials concerning the goals and policies of this sector in the Second Five-Year Plan was held yesterday.**

According to a report by RESALAT's economic correspondent, in this meeting, Almasian, the secretary of the Coordinating Council of the Poultry Union of the country, made a speech and said: At the present, at the start of the Second Five-Year Plan, with the Layan Farms, Ehdadi Chicken Farm, and the Madar Chicken Farms, in addition to the production of eggs and raising chickens, according to the plan, we have the potential for 22-percent production in excess of domestic needs regarding the volume of investments in chicken farming units. [sentence as published]

He said: In the First Five-Year Plan, 185 billion rials was invested by the cooperatives and the private sector in the poultry industry, which is a significant success in this sector.

In continuing this meeting, Engineer Seyfikaran, the deputy minister of the construction jihad for livestock affairs, said: The share of Iranian meat production in the world meat market is about 1.2 percent, and by the year 2000, Iranian production will reach from 46 million to 55 million tons.

He added: The amount of consumption of chicken in the world is 8 kg on the average, and in our country, 10.3 kg. The level of egg consumption in the world is 6.6 percent, and in our country, 8.5 percent.

He added: The existing capacity of the poultry industry in the country is about 1.5 million tons, and it is projected that this level will increase to 1.7 million tons by the end of the Second Plan.

Continuing, Seyfikaran asked for a determination of the limits of the duties of the National Poultry Coordinating Council within the framework of the Second Plan.

'People' Comment on Fixing Foreign Exchange Rates

95LA0287B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 May 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] **Rush of Foreign Currency Dealers Toward the Gold Market**

With the rigorous control of the foreign currency market by the law enforcement forces and the indecision of money changers, buying and selling foreign currency outside the banking network has almost completely disappeared.

The fluctuations in the price of gold over the past two days, however, is quite evident on the market. This indicates that some of the dealers guide the course of the revolving capital in the foreign currency market toward the gold market.

Also, it should not be forgotten that the huge volume of existing foreign currency in the hands of dealers has continued to be hidden and still threatens the foreign currency market. [end boxed item]

Economic Division—Consumers, producers, exporters—in one word people—in the society have finally achieved the hope they have held for years, a hope that was realized recently with the new decision of the government to stabilize the foreign currency rates.

The decrease in prices, increase in buying power, growth of production, support for the vulnerable stratum, and hundreds of other beneficial developments are among the goals of the proper manifestation of this policy.

In interviews with our correspondents, the people continue to announce their support for this plan and ask for the cooperation and coordination of executive officials in order for the fruitful results of the plan to show up soon in the national economy.

Mr. Valamaqam, a Ministry of Education employee, says in connection with the plan to control exports and the return of the foreign currency gained from it to the banking system: With the policy of free exports, unfortunately, some exporters misused these opportunities because the exporters had as much goods and national capital as they could, whereas there was no sign of a return of the gained foreign currency to the country.

If there was any return, it was mostly in the form of luxury and consumer goods and dollar bills to destroy the foreign currency rates.

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He added: Hence, these decisions will be very important in terms of guaranteeing economic stability, controlling the level of exports in a way that would not cause domestic price increases, and also guaranteeing the return of the gained foreign currencies and their investment in production.

In connection with the survival of this plan, he said: The serious efforts of the government are felt at this juncture more than any other time because a decision this important will certainly face disruptions and problems from its opponents. As a first step, the government must identify individuals who are somehow trying to stop the progress of this plan and remove them from decisionmaking and management and in the next steps try to maintain the created stability.

Mr. Mahyari, one of the self-sacrificers of the imposed war, referring to the bitter policies of the past by the Central Bank, says: Unfortunately in the past, the Central Bank, wittingly or unwittingly, through various policies such as the sale of $5,000 invoices, travelers invoices, the sale of coins, and other policies of this kind, inflicted irreparable damage on the foreign currency reserves of the country, and we saw what huge profits were gained by a number of profiteers in this way.

He added: Hence, the society has long been waiting for such a decision that ultimately materialized with the farsightedness of the government officials. Now millions of hard-working, low-income, and vulnerable people await its results. Certainly, with the future complementary policies, everyone will benefit from the fruits of this decision.

Also, referring to the large number of travelers who come from Central Asian countries, he said: Following the increase of the foreign currency rate in the country, they too, by changing it to rials, gained more purchasing power, which in turn escalated the price increases somewhat. With the new decision, certainly their purchasing power will be reduced.

Mr. Akbari, a household appliance salesman on Amin Hozur Street, referring to the positive effects of recent government decisions on the price of goods, says: In the past few days, the prices of many domestic and foreign goods have declined.

He added: A number of salespeople, following the increase in the foreign currency rate, engaged in stockpiling goods in order to sell them at a higher price at the appropriate time, but the new decision has stopped them from continuing to hoard, and in the past few days, we have witnessed such goods as domestically manufactured refrigerators coming out of warehouses.

In connection with the effects of this policy on the products of domestic factories, he said: In the past, because of frequent fluctuations of foreign currency, production factories were always in a state of uncertain planning and also waited to offer their products according to the ceiling of the increase in the price of foreign currency. Now, assurance is gained that the rate of foreign currency will be stable, and therefore they offer their products with more peace of mind.

In connection with the pricing of goods and the recent decisions, he said: If this policy is implemented, there will no longer be a need for pricing goods because producers, by increasing their products, will try to lower their prices and increase their sales.

Experts, too, while endorsing the new foreign currency policy of the government and negating the free foreign currency market, say:

The existence of open foreign currency markets is for countries whose economic structure necessitates the existence of an open foreign currency market as a bridge between producers, exporters, merchants, and other production sectors. In our country, unfortunately, due to the low level of production and lack of variety of products, the existence of such a system has no logical place.

They say: The existence of a foreign currency market in the country has in fact proved that it has had no results but to harm the public interests, psychological provocation of the market followed by artificial price increases, absorption of huge capital in speculation, and the gaining of huge profits by a number of profiteers.

Hence, such a decision at this juncture was not unexpected and, in fact, it is the best decision to prevent the weakening of the value of the rial as the national currency; strengthen the purchasing power of the people, particularly those who are low-income; and to redirect the capital from speculation toward economic production activities.

Calling the recent decision of the government positive, Mr. Behruz Pursina, a senior economic expert, says: This decision will be very important in controlling inflation, preventing price increases at every moment, and ultimately returning stability and improving the living condition of the people. In connection with it, the government must make use of leverages that ultimately relate to the decisiveness and seriousness of the officials to first, prevent the resumption of the chaotic foreign currency market, and second, by imposing more control over the national borders, prevent the entry and exit of smuggled goods.

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Referring to the large volume of cash flow in the country, he said: With this decision, much of the capital will go toward more profitable work, one of which is the gold market. In this connection, too, a serious policy must be devised in order to eliminate the causes of the establishment of another speculation market for gold.

Referring to the psychological grounds and their effects on the market of goods and services in the society, he said: Prior to these decisions, the dollar was used as the criterion for increasing or decreasing prices; now, with the new policy, this criterion will be eliminated, and if the capital is not dragged toward speculations on gold, the existing negative psychological effects will, on the whole, be eliminated, and economic stability will be guaranteed.

Dr. Sadeqi says: Another issue that will help the implementation of this policy is to control the revolving capital and the volume of cash flow in the country.

He says: The issue of the revolving capital and increase in the cash flow has become a problem today. If it is not controlled, it will irreparably damage the national economy.

Absorption and guiding the cash flow is one of the most important solutions of the banking system to counter the problem, and in this connection, setting the rate of foreign currency is very important.

Also, preventing the printing and distribution of money, government conservation, and not escalating the problems of the budget deficit on the one hand, and increasing production and strengthening the agricultural and industrial production sectors of the country on the other, will be effective in controlling the cash flow.

Daily Reports on New Computerized Passports

95LA0313ATehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Jul 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] **Yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and members of the Cabinet went to see the equipment procured for changing the new passports of the Islamic Republic of Iran.**

The equipment—which was procured upon the approval of the Cabinet, the establishment of a headquarters headed by the executive deputy to the president and for the purpose of changing ordinary passports in the passport offices, the law enforcement organs, and the agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran—has so far cost $7 million in foreign currency and 5 billion rials [R], which has been provided and paid for from the presidential funds.

In this visit, a report was presented to the president on the assignment conferred on the Ministry of Information regarding the design of the new passports, purchasing the needed equipment, and reorganizing the passport issuance and travel control system.

The Public Relations Office of the president reports that for the design, selection of raw materials, and printing of the new passports of the Islamic Republic of Iran, complex security features have been used, such as the use of watermark paper with the picture of Imam Khomeyni, microphotography of the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, raised and in invisible print, needled numbers, and special security folds and photograph placement on the identification page.

Also, for the convenience of the passport applicants and travelers abroad, the new passports may be issued by the passport offices of the law enforcement organs throughout the country through computer facilities from 24 Tir [15 July] this year.

According to this report, 4 million new passports have been produced with the funds allocated by the Headquarters for Passport Change Project by the Ministry of Information and placed at the disposal of the related authorities.

In this visit, the president expressed contentment concerning the accomplishments, especially in the Ministry of Information, and, emphasizing the necessity of the activities of the Headquarters for Passport Change Project, said: Serious steps for designing and offering computerized identity cards for everyone must also be put on the agenda of this headquarters.

Bill Ratified on Identity Numbers, Zip Codes

95LA0313B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] News Division—The Cabinet held a meeting yesterday afternoon with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presiding.

In this meeting, after examining the most important domestic and foreign events, the bill requiring the allocation of identity numbers and postal codes for all Iranian citizens was studied and ratified.

Based on this bill, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and necessary communication to provide services to the society, decrease general expenditures, and also avoid the use of various and parallel numbers to identify individuals and their needed services, the Ministries of Interior and Post, Telegraph, and Telephone were made responsible for allocating identity numbers and postal codes in adherence with the laws and regulations cited with regard to identity cards for all Iranian

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residents and their place of residence and work, and all actual and legal persons and government and public organizations are responsible to use the identity numbers and postal codes. This card, as the identity document of Iranian citizens, encompasses all related legal and penal rulings and must always be carried by its owner.

One of the notes to this bill prohibits the issuance of any sort of administrative or guild card or drivers license without including the identity card and postal code numbers.

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the President, also in this meeting, the implemental bylaws of Note 51 of the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] national budget law, the issue of the allocation of 20 billion rials [R] from the banking system resources to expedite voluntary settlement of tribal communities in appropriate regions and equipping production, agricultural, and animal husbandry centers and building housing and other needs for settling tribes was approved by the Cabinet.

Article Details Marine Company's Activities

95LA0285B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI)—Through the efforts of exports, specialists, and planners in the Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra), last year five tug boats and container-bearing landing craft were built.

Engineer Salemizadeh, director of the Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra) in Bushehr, said in announcing this: Building and modifying various types of ships and ocean vessels and building and installing maritime installations and buildings are the basic and main areas of this company's activity. The Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra) in Bushehr, having achieved international successes, has become known as a world maritime company without the involvement of foreign experts and through the efforts of domestic specialists and designers.

Speaking with our correspondent, he said: Each month more than 15 vessels are repaired and launched at the Bushehr Ship Factory. Last year 185 vessels of various types were repaired and launched at this company.

In this interview Eng. Salemizadeh emphasized the daily increasing need for the development of the maritime industry and the Persian Gulf oil and gas fields. He noted: With the best equipped platform factory, with the support of maritime operations and making use of advanced computerized milling machinery and today's advanced knowledge, this company has successfully built and repaired the Tay and Azarpad oil terminals, the Khark Island chemical dock, and also the Bushehr Fisheries dock.

Praise God, last year the Tay and Azarpad oil terminals were put back into operation in ceremonies attended by the respected president of the republic Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and this island's chemical dock will also go into daily operation.

The director of the Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra) cited as the company's major activities last year the construction of two forest dredging vessels and a 100-meter container vessel, two docks on Abu Musa Island, six oil-drilling platforms in the Siri area, and the repair and reconstruction of the Foruzan Region oil platform.

Eng. Salemizadeh cited increasing the quality of the work, building and installing facilities, repairing maritime vessels, and improving the technology as this company's most important goals. He said: The Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra) of Bushehr, with its accumulated experience carrying out numerous projects in the Khark Island region—especially the reconstruction of the receiving walkway of the Tay receiving Dock, the oil terminals and the Khark Petrochemical Complex Dock, and likewise the construction of the 7,500,ton oil-drilling platform and in its procedures for launching at the Bushehr platform factory—has appropriate technical knowledge and factory equipment. By showing its capabilities in the north and the south of Iran, it can easily work on continental shelf projects in Iran.

Continuing, he said that manpower training during the company's operations is always one of the most important indicators taken into consideration. He discussed programs planned for the future and currently under way in the Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra) in Bushehr. He said: This company's most important programs this year include the reconstruction of the oil platforms in the Siri, Abuzar, and Salman area in the Persian Gulf, the construction of a water reservoir at the Bandar 'Abbas oil refinery, and ordering the construction and repair of several vessels.

He also mentioned this company's important initiative and creativity in the construction of ships and vessels based on international criteria, regulations, and standards, without the involvement of foreign experts. He said: The Iran Industrial Marine Company (Sadra) in Bushehr is able to build and design various kinds of vessels and also to build and repair oil platforms and docks, work that was formerly a monopoly of foreign companies.

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Bushehr Becomes 'Protected Region'

95LA0285A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr (IRNA)—Based on a measure enacted recently by the Islamic Republic Ports, Shipping, and Customs Organization, the Port of Bushehr has been declared a protected region.

The Province of Bushehr general manager of ports and shipping said yesterday: Henceforth merchants may import raw materials and machinery parts without going through customs formalities.

Sasani added: The merchant may keep the imported goods in port for up to a year, and if he does not wish to bring them into the country, he may export them again without going through customs formalities.

He added: These goods will go through customs formalities only if merchants decide not to re-export them and wish to transfer them into the country.

He said: The declaration of the protected zone can bring economic prosperity to the Province of Bushehr and can increase export and import activities in this region.

Merchants may hold goods in this port for one year, and this period may be extended for six months.

The Province of Bushehr, with three active commercial ports, has an annual capacity to unload and load 1.5 million tons of goods.

Article Views 'Irrational' Cost of Rental Housing

95LA0288A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Jun 95 p 12

[Article by Majid Razazi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Because of its special essence in our country, the problem of housing is to a great extent a problem for renters.

What is meant by the saying "life is having a shelter" is that any family that does not own a home is missing life in its full sense. Likewise the behavior of the owners of rental housing units toward renters—that they are not customers who must be respected but rather individuals with weaknesses in relation to the owner of the house—has produced a special quality in the housing problem in our country compared to other countries. It is this framework that gives meaning to the increased percentage of people who are living in separate personal residences along with other existing problems.

Here is a report on the problems of applicants for rental housing units.

The school vacation season is a time of running around for renters, a time of trying to find shelter, of going from this foundation to that foundation, eagerly reading neat and messy little notes in good and bad handwriting full of spelling errors, stuck behind the windows of the foundations; it is a season of fatigue, wandering around, irrational rents, huge deposits, imposed conditions...

For renters the school vacation season means a season of vacation from peace and tranquillity, a season of asking "where is a good home?"

"Two rooms, hall, bathroom, shared bath, same floor, 600,000 tumans deposit, 20,000 tumans rent, for four people."

"One 12-meter room on the third floor, a small kitchen, shared bathroom, no bath, for one single woman, 100,000 tumans deposit, 15,000 tumans rent."

"One-bedroom apartment for three, 1 million tumans deposit, 25,000 tumans rent."

"Two-bedroom apartment for maximum of four, 2 million tumans deposit, 20,000 tumans rent."

"Two first-floor rooms, shared bathroom and bath, for a working married couple, 500,000 tumans deposit, 15,000 tumans rent."

The examples were not just chosen from the northern parts of the city. They were taken from areas in the southern parts of Tehran. Which of these residences can a salaried office worker, a factory worker, a retired person, or a peddler choose? To what extent can the income of any one of these classes absorb these payments?

Renter: Our Entire Salary Goes for Rent

I stood for several minutes in front of an office for real estate transactions in one of Tehran's southern neighborhoods. Individuals, mostly arriving as couples, read the notes on the little slips of paper behind the window describing the rental homes and the amounts of their deposits and rents. When they read them, the lines on their faces changed. Some of them went in the office and asked for the address of one of the homes. Others haggled with the person in the office over the rents and deposits. The middle-aged man in charge, referring to the notes behind the windows, said: "The deposits and rents and the number of children cannot be changed."

I introduced myself to a man coming out of the office with a woman. Having seen him when he and the woman were initially reading a note on one of the rental homes, I asked: Did you find the home you wanted?

With these rents and deposits, we will never find it.

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Why?

Haven't you read these notices? As a staff employee, my entire take home pay is no more than 20,000 tumans. How can I pay 25,000 tumans rent? Even if I an willing to take two damp rooms on the bottom floor and risk afflicting my wife and children with rheumatism, share the toilet and the bath with the owner of the house, and put up with his complaining, I would still have to pay 15,000 tumans a month. Then with the remaining 5,000 tumans, how could I manage a family of four? People like me are not hard to find. Most renters are wage earners, laborers, staff employees, and retired people who all want to know how they are going to live if they spend their entire salaries on rent. Who will pay the money? Should a person basically consider himself responsible in this regard? Have the renters been forgotten? They are society's deprived classes and the leader of the revolution has emphasized and does emphasize looking after them.

In front of another office 100 meters below the previous one, an elderly man reads the poorly and illegibly written notices. I asked: "Father, permit me to help you."

Yes, look here. Do you see any rentals for 10-12 tumans and 200-300 tumans deposit?

For how many?

Three people: me, my wife, and a girl who is handicapped in both legs. I scan the notices quickly. Most of the deposits are above 300,000 tumans, running up to 2 million tumans! I finally found one. I went into the office with the old man, wrote down the address, and took his hand. When he left, the person in charge asked: Weren't you together?

No, I was trying to help him.

The place he is going is not suitable for him. It is damp.

Why didn't you tell him?

I didn't want to discourage him.

Why are rents and deposits so high, anyway?

Some of the landlords have become greedy, sir! A fellow came and said a 12-meter room was 15,000 tumans a month with a 200,000-tuman deposit. This is just one room. Then he said the tenant had to be a single woman! The man wants the symbol of someone's family honor to come live in his house, and then she has to be single!

The man in charge said: "God forbid!" and continued:

I just don't know what has come over these people. Last week a fellow came and made the cost of a promissory note 5 million, and now when he goes to the registry office, he says you have to add another tuman!

I asked him why? Now that the dollar's rate has been held down, what was his excuse this time? He said meat has gone up to 900 tumans, then rice was so much, and so on.

As I left, I was thinking that if the government does not set limits on housing unit rentals, how will the problems of low-income people be solved?

Whatever the Landlords Want!

We asked a researcher on economic affairs about the mechanism for setting rates on rental housing units. He said:

The unbalanced market for rental housing units in our country's large cities has the unwelcome characteristics listed below, and they are exacerbating the continuous price increases in this regard. The intensity of the bad effects of these costs is even greater than that of other costs.

1. The high share of housing cost in the family budget. Unfortunately, the latest statistical information is not available on the share of housing in the basket of expenses for families in rental housing, but case studies in this regard show that sometimes this expense takes up almost all of a family's income. This makes the fluctuations in housing costs a very important and vital matter for those living in rental housing.

2. The continuous increase in demand for rental housing units in the large cities, due to the continued acceleration of emigration and also the increase in population.

3. The lack of any kind of legal regulation of rental rates or the failure to designate an authority to set them. Apart from any regulation on landlords, there is the question, when the increased foreign exchange rate is used as an excuse to double rents and to raise the deposits even more than that, why don't the rates return to their former levels when the foreign exchange rates drop again? There can be only one answer: Under no circumstances do landlords have any desire to reduce rates, and they know very well that they have all the leverage.

On the other hand, those seeking rental housing units have no choice but to submit to the unjustifiable and exasperating rents because all the landlords have a common interest in increasing rates as much as possible, and they are working entirely together in the neighborhoods of the big cities, vying with one another to see who can increase rents the fastest. Every day the rents are higher than the day before.

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Manufacturing Company Placed on Stock Market List

95LA0287D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Service—The name of the Iran Manufacturing Company was placed on the Stock Market list of prices, and its shares will be traded.**

According to a report by the Economic Service correspondent of ABRAR, the request for admission of the shares of the Iran Combine Manufacturing Company was approved on 12/10/1373 [2 January 1995] by the Valuable Papers Admission Committee. With all the requirements met, the name of the company was admitted on 08/03/1374 [29 May 1995] as the 168th company on the list of prices of the Stock Market Organization in the industries, equipment, and machinery group, under the mark "Takomba."

It is noteworthy that the capital of this company is 3 billion rials [R] divided into 3 million 100,000-rial named common shares.

Our ABRAR correspondent writes in his report that, based on the report of the same day by the Office of Supervision Over Stock Market Companies, the special value of a R100,000 share, considering the dividends of the shareholders, at the end of Esfand 1372 [20 March 1994] was R6,456, and based on the financial lists at the end of Esfand 1373 [20 March 1995] (not audited), without the effects of the decisions of the assembly, was R2,337.

The ratio of dividends of the shareholders to the total holdings of the company at the end of Esfand 1372 was 10.7 percent, and at the end of Esfand 1373 (not audited), based on the financial lists, it was 18.5 percent. Also, the ratio of the dividends of the shareholders to the fixed holdings at cost at the end of Esfand 1372 was 59.3 percent and, based on the financial lists (not audited) and without taking into consideration the normal annual decisions of the general assembly, is over 50 percent.

The retail price of every R100,000 share under the name of the Iran Combine Manufacturing Company, considering the financial information sent by the company and the return of 25 percent, is estimated at R8,900.

It is noteworthy that this price has been announced as the base price, and its actual price shall be determined on the basis of the mechanisms of supply and demand.

Pakistan

Leaders Meet To Draft 'New Strategy' for Talks

BK2507091095 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Jul 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, July 24 — Top central and Sindh government leaders on Monday [24 July] held meetings in the federal capital to draw a new strategy in the wake of deadlock in talks between the government and the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], an official source said.

Sindh Governor Kamal Azfar and Chief Minister Abdullah Shah, who rushed to the federal capital along with senior provincial government officials, attended a meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The meeting was held after a special cabinet meeting on the Karachi situation.

Officials were tight-lipped about these meetings and several calls made to the governor and the chief minister remained unanswered.

"I can only confirm you that the meeting was held behind closed doors which was attended by the prime minister, the governor and the chief minister, besides some senior officials," a source, who asked not to be named, said.

The meeting ostensibly discussed the government strategy for dealing with 'terrorists' in Karachi, which apparently have made tactical withdrawal from areas where the security operations have been carried out.

However, there are strong indications that the operation would continue along with the talks.

Several decisions were reportedly taken in the light of the briefing given by Rangers officials and intelligence agencies to the special cabinet meeting held earlier.

The Prime Minister later called on the president and held important consultations with him on the Karachi issue, one source said. During her three-hour long meeting, the prime minister reportedly informed him about the cabinet meeting as well as decisions taken during the closed-door meeting with the governor and the chief minister.

"Several high-level officials of the interior ministry were called during the meeting between the president and the prime minister," one source said.

The prime minister also reportedly informed the president about the deadlock in the talks with the MQM leadership.

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MQM's Dehlvi Blames Deadlock on Government

BK2507100595 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, July 24—The head of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] negotiating team, Mr Ajmal Dehlvi, said on Monday the talks between the government and the MQM had been deadlocked because of the "cold response" by the government.

Briefing journalists at the Karachi Press Club about the talks, he said: "The operation against MQM workers and sympathisers and the talks cannot go on simultaneously. The government must decide between the two."

Mr Dehlvi said that MQM team wanted a positive response to its demands in a few days before the next round of talks could be held at Islamabad on July 31.

"If the government fails to respond positively, then the MQM will resume its protest through strikes which were suspended in good faith but not abandoned altogether," he said.

Because of the attitude of the "powerless official team", he said, the deadlock in the parleys was expected. However, the talks could be resumed if the government saw reason as a result of pressure from political circles and the masses, he added.

Mr Dehlvi said the official team tried to "sidetrack us" by raising "non-issues and side-issues" on the basis of reports published by the media.

The MQM team, he said, had hoped to get justice through negotiations, but all hopes were shattered owing "to discussions on non-issues" and "continued atrocities on MQM workers".

Mr Dehlvi said the government could take some concrete steps as confidence-building measures to continue the talks which after all could produce positive results.

Mr Dehlvi said there was a consensus between the two parties on maintaining peace and solving problems through political means. Both parties, he said, had agreed to avoid provocative statements for the success of the talks. But the ministers and others violated the agreement and launched a smear campaign to malign the MQM and its leadership, he added.

Mr Dehlvi distributed among the journalists a three-page brochure containing details of the talks held since July 11. He said nine of the 18-point demands were such as could be implemented by the government without involving itself in any legal complications. But the official team did not bother to give them due consideration. Even six points of a minor nature given to the government, he said, were not implemented as promised.

Mr Dehlvi opined that an agreement could not reach by force and negotiations were the best means for settling the issues.

To a question about the deadlock as pointed by him earlier, Mr Delhvi said that walkouts and boycotts were part and parcel of the democratic process and the negotiations could be resumed if the government showed some magnanimity to break the ice.

When asked about the existence of any force which could influence the process of dialogue, Mr Dehlvi said that for him the government was the only visible force which could make the dialogue a success or a failure.

Mr Dehlvi did not divulge the four suggestions that his team had given to the government for reaching a peace formula for the trouble-plagued city.

At the end, he said, that the MQM chief Altaf Hussain would be apprised of the decision taken by the negotiating team late night.

Need for MQM To Shun Violence Stressed

BK2607053095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Commentary by Yusuf Rafiq]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The most keenly awaited government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks began earlier in the month amidst optimism, with prospects of dramatic breakthrough. It can be said that the present situation in Karachi is not alarming but frightening, as the death toll for the first six and half months of the current year is already around 1,100 as against 760 last year. Under the prevailing circumstances only a sincere commitment of Altaf Hussain, the leader of Altaf Group, toward finding a workable solution can ensure success of these negotiations and that is to surrender all weapons [words indistinct] organizations for this and renounce violence. The MQM has not yet shown its political sagacity by agreeing to the demand of renunciation of terrorism. President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar have all repeatedly said that the MQM has to surrender all weapons and renounce terrorism of any kind if both were to reach an amicable solution of Karachi.

The MQM-government talks started in a friendly atmosphere with the MQM calling off a (?morning) strike. Yet the statement given by the MQM delegate Ajmal Dehlvi—that should the talks fail the demand of a separate province will become inevitable—smacked

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of MQM's obstinacy and hard-line attitude that they adopted for the talks. Almost all the demands put forward by the MQM-Altaf Group for normalcy in Karachi are colored with trace of violence. In the words of Ajmal Dehlvi, not a point less nor a point more will be acceptable to MQM-Altaf Group, though before the start of the talks the MQM had publicly agreed that they would give latitude to the government for bringing back normalcy in the country's economic capital.

An important ingredient that MQM has missed so far in order to bring peace in the country's biggest metropolis is the public renunciation of violence of any kind, be that words, threats, or use of a gun. For that end, he and his other party members have to renounce terrorism and throw away weapons and let the political dialogue give shape to a peace for all the times to come. On the other hand, the MQM has so far brushed aside the demands of renunciation of violence and surrender of arms while saying that there are bound to be repercussions if the operation in Karachi was not stopped. The MQM had better understand another factor also—that there is economic cost of violence and terrorism, too, and that is devastating the national exchequer in general while Karachi in particular. It is estimated that in a case of a complete strike, the national exchequer suffers a loss of rupees 3 billion. In addition, the stock market in Karachi has also suffered huge losses, over rupees 125 billion, in the last year in the shape of market capitalization. This is definitely a much bigger financial loss than those caused by other factors. No matter how obstinate Altaf Group's ideas and aspirations are, but for Karachi, they should feel the colossal loss of life and property, the unimaginable suffering of the nearly 12 million people, the continued paralysis of industrial, commercial and social life and the consequent strangulation of the nation's biggest city. The political (?leaders) have a knack of projecting themselves as hard-liners which show their political poverty. A constructive approach and a spirit of give and take can evolve an equitable and fair political package to the satisfaction of all. The return to normalcy in Karachi will be the victory of common sense and defeat for none.

Irrespective of political compulsions, everybody who is anybody in the country wants success of the talks, because no part of Pakistan has experienced such a terrorism which has paralyzed its business capital. If the MQM wants to achieve this end then it should, as a national responsibility, surrender all weapons and renounce violence.

The second session of the fourth round of talks between the MQM-Altaf Group and the government is under way, with clear indications from the delegation heads that they want to see the talks move ahead and have termed the round crucial. The MQM should realize the gravity of the situation and rise above the occasion and heed to the government's just demand. Adopting a hard-line attitude will not do any good to Karachi.

Editorial: Talks Degenerate Over 'Inane' Points

BK2507102195 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 25 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Point and counterpoints"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What a pity that the dialogue on Karachi on which depends the destiny of our entire nation tends to degenerate into battle of inane points. At first the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] delegation presented a four-point formula for bringing peace to the city. The contents of that package have not been revealed, but reliable leaks suggest that they require ban on weapons in entire Sindh, withdrawal of cases against their activists, replacement of paramilitary forces from Karachi and inclusion of Altaf Hussain, their leader, in the peace process. The government countered these proposals by a list of its own requiring the other side to renounce the culture of violence and rid its ranks of terrorist groups offering a rehabilitation programme to the ones who give up the life of crime. Apparently, both sides are ducking the real issues and making demands which their rivals cannot accept. As regards the Altaf Group proposal for declaring Sindh a weapon-free zone this is simply not enforceable, given the state of proliferation in that region and the extension links between the gangland and the Station House. Many attempts in the past to seize illegal weapons have proved dismal failures. The other MQM proposal regarding amnesty is premature; that to be a part of comprehensive settlement and not a precondition for peace. Similarly, paramilitary units have to patrol the streets of Karachi quite some time to come since, apart from Altaf group there are a large number of other armed groups, political as well as pure Mafia types, who are likely to cash in on lax security. Inclusion or their boss Altaf, may be beneficial only when substantive negotiations get underway, which, unfortunately, is not the case at the moment. On the part of the government, the conditions put forward by the government side are long on rhetoric and short on realism. To ask a militant group to lay down arms unconditionally is a tall order. The talk of offering jobs and training to reformed militants sounds simplistic at this stage. Similarly the refusal of the government to talk to Altaf is most unlikely to modify the MQM.

Looking at the tactics employed by the two sides, one gets the odd feelings that the parties concerned are sparing in the vacuum. What we need is immediate

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ceasefire by the both sides without precondition and without delay. The MQM activists should cease their attacks on soldiers and civilians straightaway, while the security forces stop their sweeping operations of large scale raids on and arrests of MQM activists. Another matters are negotiable and the potential subjects of a comprehensive settlement. One wonders why such an obvious measure is not endorsed by the two sides. An explanation is that since the Security forces have had some success against militants they want to press home their advantage. This is however, the time for the show of magnanimity, since the real issue is not the extermination of Altaf group but the removal of causes that led to the rise of its militancy. Once the community's grievances are redressed, MQM violence will die a natural death. The problem is social and economic and not a military one.

MQM Said Plotting Guerilla Warfare

95AS0461B Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 8 Jun 95 pp 31-31

[Article by Amin Ahsan: "Beginning of Guerilla Warfare Against the Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the 24 November issue of last year, it was revealed in the Karachi Diary that the Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM] wanted to postpone confrontation with the government for some time in order to make necessary preparations. After six months, there is a change in MQM's strategy. It is ready for confrontation and a major operation now. The clearest indication of this is the statement made by the Sindh Assembly's opposition leader, Shaib Bukhari, in a meeting of lawyers. He said that civil war was unavoidable. Meanwhile MQM leader Altaf Hussain has already made statements in a specific manner to prepare the people mentally. The essence of it was, "Do not push me against he wall. If the people took extreme action in their frustrations, even I will not be able to stop them." An important MQM member of Sindh's assembly also said during the same period that we will be forced to invite the United Nations for interference if the law and order situation is not improved. The latest news in this context is that a lawyer who agrees with the MQM philosophy has filed a petition in Sindh's High Court. He has requested permission to invite the United Nations to establish peace and reinstate rights of Karachi's residents. In other words, what could have been called a crazy person's blab are emerging as scary facts in front of us now.

This situation is what we actually are seeing. The fact behind this is that the MQM that had disintegrated after Operation Cleanup has reorganized now. The majority of its workers who were living outside Karachi or abroad have returned to Karachi very quietly and have taken over their old or new responsibilities. These people are still arriving. Among these workers, there are persons who are ideologically associated with the party as well as those who are fighters who were trained and organized somewhere in India by Altaf Hussain's former security guard Iqbal alias Bali.

The field force prepared by Iqbal alias Bali is the same as responsible for the bloody incidents that occurred in Karachi recently. The leaders of this field force whose bloody actions have scared every person consider these as a rehearsal of their forces that will take part in the civil war hinted about by Shaib Bukhari. In other words, what has happened so far was just the foreword and the main book will be written later. The MQM strategy is to let what is to transpire take place quickly. The MQM strategists hope that the government reacts to their activities by a major operation in August. Huge numbers of weapons have been accumulated to face that action.

According to a reliable source, the MQM will possibly use heavy weapons during this round. One of these weapons is the anti-tank rocket launcher RPG-7. This weapon is used in civil wars to blow up trains, lines of entrenchments, military posts, and concrete structures. Other weapons include smaller cannons, 12.7 mm heavy machine guns, 8.7 mm light machine guns, and Israeli-made light automatic gun which emits fire instead of bullets.

In addition to these weapons and collecting other lethal weapons of this kind, plans for propaganda have been made to prepare the public opinion for this situation. Training of the ideological groups in the party have been completed and this propaganda is coming out of the four walls and spreading in streets and lanes. The earlier form of this propaganda was that Karachi was being transformed into a Hong Kong. This had become such a familiar fact in the past that even common cart-pullers were talking about it. The intensity of it was seen when former federal minister and Muslim League's vice president came to express his condolence at Mohammed Salauddin's house and asked a young man informally about the law and order situation. The young man directly replied that there should be peace in Karachi whether it remains in Pakistan or becomes a Hong Kong. Now this propaganda is being further extended and the people are being told that the United States has decided to break up Pakistan under its international plan. [The line is] We do not want to break up Pakistan, but while it is disintegrating we need to protect interests of Mohajirs. In other words, MQM does not think it important to save Pakistan; it is more important to get its share after helping break it up. What approach is the MQM using

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to salvage Mohajir interests? The leaders of this party have answered this question it in their own language.

The MQM strategy that is emerging now was prepared a long time ago. Its various phases have slowly passed. In one phase they targeted one or two police and ranger employees or military personnel for torture or murder. Over a hundred policemen and dozens of rangers and military personnel have lost their lives during this phase. The purpose of this action was to give the impression to Karachi, people in Pakistan, and to the whole world that the government agencies in this city have become helpless and those who want to spread unrest can target them any time they want to. No doubt that this policy was also successful to an extent. Now the decision has been made to further expand on it. This was started a week ago with the incident in North Nazimabad. Plans were made to surround rangers and murder them. This plan was foiled by the brave actions of the rangers. The criminals did not change their plans despite the failure of this action. They still want to follow it. Altaf Hussain's earlier statements that the situation in Karachi was worse than in Kashmir and Bosnia used to be ridiculed in the past, but appear to be a fact now. Under this plan, all security agencies including the military, police, and the rangers as well as high government officials are to be targeted.

The MQM wants to assure itself of something else before starting this campaign. It wants to assure itself that there are no suspicious characters in its ranks like in the past. To this end, Dr. Umran Farooq, MQM's secretary general who is underground now, has issued instructions to eliminate any person who looks even slightly suspicious. These instructions are already being followed. There are occasional news about mysterious deaths of prominent and not-so-prominent members of the MQM. Such incidents are expected to increase now because the responsible persons want to assure themselves of the fact that there is no suspicious person within the MQM ranks before the major violent confrontations take place within the next few months.

The MQM is not alone in causing the frays that are expected during the next few weeks in Karachi. Some other nationalist but anti-national groups are cooperating with the MQM while staying within their own limits. Among these the nationalist wing of the Awami National Party is very effective. Under the direction of its leaders, this group is very active in procuring weapons and arsenals and safe places for the terrorists to hide. This group has the most connections with the arms smugglers. In this context, it is totally cooperating with its undeclared ally and ideologically analogous group.

Our information is that arms and ammunition worth millions of rupees have been brought to Karachi after these are received at some barren and uninhabited shore areas in Sindh and Balochistan. Some MQM sources had revealed during the last months of last year (when Bahadur Ali was murdered) that arms and ammunition worth 1.2 billion rupees have been procured. It was learned a few hours before Bahadur Ali was murdered that these arms were to be used for the "rehearsal" terrorism and also for murdering some police officials including Bahadur Ali, several leaders in Afaq Ahmed and Haqeeqi groups, and some chosen opponents. Several prominent person have been murdered since this information. These include Bahadur Ali and some important police officials who were known for their investigation skills. In addition, Mansur Chacha of MQM (Haqeeqi), Hamid Pia of another group, and dozens of MQM (Haqeeqi) members were also murdered. We can assume how much destruction can be caused by the weapons worth millions of rupees that have been brought recently.

Until now, the impression in Karachi was that the military was going to come and take control of the situation and the terrorists themselves did not want to confront the army. Plans have been made to nullify this impression. Implementation of this plan was started some time ago, but the open war with the army will begin now. Altaf Hussain, the MQM leader, had burned the national flag at the tomb of the founder of the nation in 1979. As a result, he was sentenced to 15 months in jail and 15 lashes by a military court. He was released after he had written a letter to military officers asking them for pardon. This was initiated in cooperation with opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif in order to start confrontation with the military. When Mian Nawaz Sharif went to London to meet Altaf Hussain after meeting with General Abdulwaheed Kakar in March, Altaf Hussain had issued a statement announcing that time had come for Mian Nawaz Sharif to unmask the forces that had ended his government. Altaf Hussain has insisted to Nawaz Sharif during the meetings that followed to start giving statements against the armed forces. In return, he would provide unconditional cooperation to him. However, Nawaz Sharif had refused to accept this offer. Altaf Hussain has strongly criticized the military and its general in his recent interview which was telecast on the CNN. On other occasions he had called the military generals corrupt. In other words, Altaf Hussain has declared his lack of respect for the military and its ability to control the situation, and has openly declared a campaign against it. This is the beginning of a guerrilla war against the nation.

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